

Robert Bailey
201 N.E. Hillwood Drive
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124
email@rpbailey.com

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Opposition to H.B. 4075: Toxic Emissions

Honorable Members of the House Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee

Hillsboro area residents are increasingly concerned about the growing volume of toxic emissions brought about by industry, the Hillsboro Airport and by the area use of wood stoves. The City of Hillsboro has yet to engage citizens with the livability trade-offs to industrialization.

- The county has instituted a wood stove exchange program in an effort to reduce harmful particulates and to keep the county air-shed from falling under federal jurisdiction.
- The Port of Portland is on notice that the use of lead based aviation fuels raining down on area residents is no longer sustainable.
- Intel self-reported its failure to disclose 30 years of fluoride emissions, resulting in a settlement agreement with Neighbors for Clean Air and the NW Environmental Defense Council. An Air Quality Advisory Committee was established. A Health Risk Assessment of Intel toxic emissions was completed and now ambient air quality monitoring in the community has just begun, testing the model of that health risk assessment. Results: 9/18.

When we discussed H.B. 4075 with Rep. Sollman and the NW Hillsboro Alliance proponents, they reference a residential community with houses, parks, and schools. When we talked to City of Hillsboro staff about their support of H.B. 4075, they talk about an “industrial sanctuary”. This is to facilitate their NW Hillsboro Investment Strategy that requires small, medium, and large blocks of acreage to market to industry new to the area or to corporations evolving in size.

Prevailing Winds

The Hillsboro Airport has tracked the winds of Hillsboro since its inception. From October through April, winds blow roughly south to north. During the May to October period, winds blow roughly from the northwest to the southeast. When you look at a map of the 1700 acres in H.B. 4075, it is

important to note that the acreage is due south of the boundaries of the growing residential area of North Plains. It is likewise important to note that to the south and east of the 1700 acres are established residential neighborhoods in the City of Hillsboro. Residents are unaware of this potential future danger.

City of Hillsboro's Northwest Hillsboro Investment Strategy

The city has not yet come up-to-speed on the growing citizen-based air quality concerns. I have been a member of the Intel Air Quality Advisory Committee for over 5 years. I have seen one elected councilman from Hillsboro attend during that time. Their concern is for the “**package**”, the array of benefits that they can use to lure corporations to the area: subsidies, infrastructure, and unused air-shed. To an extent, the city's growth model is becoming at odds with the livability issues of its growing population.

H.B. 4075 in the hands of the City of Hillsboro would create a mile wide tier of industries adjacent to North Plains and its own residential neighborhoods. Depending on the season, depending on the industry, residents may or may not become the recipients of more toxic emissions. As the area becomes more populated with industry, the emissions mix in the air-shed, become difficult to track to a source. They also mix with one another and fall out in the rain. What might have started as a low harm emission could become more toxic in the mix.

The City of Hillsboro needs to begin engaging the community in the toxic emissions impacts of their industrial planning. They have not begun. Giving them 1700 acres, in this location, will put residents in several cities at increased risk of harm.

Robert Bailey
Member, Intel Air Quality Advisory Committee
Washington County Harold Haynes Citizen Involvement Award Recipient,
2007