

# Cynthia Flora

As a citizen living a short walk from the Harris Ave Shipyard and dealing with numerous chronic, progressive lung diseases, I am very concerned about air quality when clean up occurs. Please describe how you will accommodate air quality as it impacts people whose health profile would qualify them as at high risk.

Imagine me as the canary in the mine. Up until three years ago I rarely gave any note to fire season here in Bellingham. Now that wildland smoke is an annual summer event I have had to pay close daily attention to AQI readings. Unlike most people I cannot enjoy the outdoors when the rating is "moderate"...in the yellow zone. I fall into the category of a "very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution for whom there might be a moderate health concern". Most people don't give it a second thought until quality is in the orange zone.

I have bronchiectasis which resulted in destruction of my large bronchi. Recently my small airways have begun to close as well, a condition known as bronchiolitis. These debilitating conditions make me very susceptible to bacterial and/or fungal infections, of which I have several that are multi-drug resistant. So for me, even the moderate air quality means not just moderate health concerns but possibly serious repercussions.

Ironically, my lung problems most likely were the result of working fifteen years as the business manager of a small shipyard in southeast Alaska. I was exposed daily to aerosolized mist from power washers that very likely contained non-tuberculous mycobacterium which now persist in my damaged lungs. My work environment exposed me daily to small but constant airborne volatile organic compounds and has left me with multiple chemical sensitivities.

Because there is an obvious limit to costs to reduce air borne contaminants, I realize such an unusual health fragility could not be addressed BUT surely notification of actions that might affect damaged lungs could be. It would enable me to protect my own health by leaving the area or staying indoors as needed. I assume email lists would be a relatively inexpensive way of communicating with citizens at variable levels of risk from airborne contaminants.

Anything less would not be acceptable. Thank you for your consideration.

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