

Richard Jackson

I am writing to express my strong support for the issuance of the air quality permit for Aluminum Dynamics, Inc. This project represents a significant opportunity for economic growth and job creation in our community, and it incorporates state-of-the-art environmental controls to ensure compliance with stringent regulatory standards. I am concerned, however, about the false narratives and fear-mongering propagated by opponents of this permit, which misrepresent the project's environmental safeguards and intent.

Aluminum Dynamics has committed to implementing advanced environmental control technologies to mitigate potential risks to air quality. These include high-efficiency particulate control systems, advanced filtration, and continuous emissions monitoring, all designed to meet or exceed the requirements of the Clean Air Act and Arizona's air quality regulations. Such modern processes are proven to minimize emissions of pollutants such as particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and nitrogen oxides (NOx), ensuring that the facility operates safely and responsibly. Unfortunately, opponents of the permit have consistently refused to acknowledge these robust environmental safeguards, instead relying on outdated or exaggerated claims to incite fear. Their narrative ignores the rigorous permitting process overseen by ADEQ, which ensures that facilities like Aluminum Dynamics adhere to strict environmental standards to protect public health and the environment.

Furthermore, it is troubling that much of the opposition appears to be driven by outside influencers from Peoria, Phoenix, and Maricopa County, who have flooded our community with propaganda. These groups, with little stake in our local area, have amplified misleading information to sway public opinion, often without engaging in constructive dialogue about the project's merits or the advanced technologies it employs. Their selective outrage is particularly striking when contrasted with their silence on existing pollution sources in our region, such as the Apache Nitrogen Products, Inc. Superfund site and the AZGT Apache Generating Station. The Apache Nitrogen site, listed on the EPA's National Priorities List since 1990, has a history of nitrate and perchlorate contamination in groundwater, yet it receives little attention from these critics. Similarly, the Apache Generating Station, one of Arizona's last coal-fired power plants, emits significant levels of mercury, arsenic, and other toxic pollutants, contributing to air quality concerns far greater than those posed by a modern, regulated facility like Aluminum Dynamics. The lack of focus on these established pollution sources undermines the credibility of the opposition and suggests their efforts are more about political posturing than genuine environmental concern.

In contrast, Aluminum Dynamics' proposed facility is subject to comprehensive oversight by ADEQ, ensuring compliance with federal and state environmental regulations. The permit process includes thorough evaluations of potential emissions, public health impacts, and mitigation measures, all of which are designed to protect our community and environment. The facility's design incorporates best available control technologies (BACT), reflecting a commitment to environmental stewardship that aligns with Arizona's goals of balancing economic development with public health and environmental protection.

I urge ADEQ to approve the air quality permit for Aluminum Dynamics, as it represents a well-regulated, safe, and environmentally responsible project. The fear-based tactics of outside opponents should not overshadow the tangible benefits of this facility, nor the advanced environmental controls that will ensure its safe operation. Our community deserves the economic opportunities this project will bring, and I trust ADEQ's rigorous permitting process to safeguard our air quality and public health.