

Amy Johnson

From: Cayetana Tabullo <cayetanatabullo@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 4:02 PM
To: citycouncil
Cc: CityRecorder
Subject: Garbage rate increase testimony

Dear Salem City Council,

I read with shock and dismay that our garbage rates for 2020 are going up yet again. We have the distinction, in the Salem area, to have the highest rates of any of the cities that are listed in the "Comparative Rate Summary," except for Silverton, since that municipality is also obligated to have their garbage taken to the Covanta incinerator.

The Covanta incinerator is located just up the road from where I reside. As a person of color living in the northeast section of Salem, I have to contend daily with the terrible air quality that results from this garbage burner. Northeast Salem is predominantly low-income and my community has a higher percentage of communities of color than in other areas of the metropolis.

We are not only a frontline community that experiences a higher impact from the daily toxic emissions from this facility, we also have less disposable income to continue paying for these rate increases. These rate increases only benefit this multinational corporation with a troubling history of polluting around the world. I would like to know exactly the quantity of these toxic chemicals I am ingesting every day of the year from this old facility.

In this area, we have no continuous monitoring of toxins that this facility generates constantly, such as dioxins, the most toxic chemicals known to mankind. In addition to the assaults on our air and water perpetrated by this incinerator, we also are a captive population to the sulfur dioxide, hydrogen chloride, lead, cadmium, mercury, dioxins, furans, etc., that are emitted every day of the year from this garbage burner. I seriously believe I have the right to know what toxins I, and my fellow community members, are absorbing every day by living in this area, and how contaminated the soil and water are by this incinerator.

This is an environmental justice issue, and you cannot, in good conscience, continue to ignore this ongoing injustice. This facility is also the number one emitter of greenhouse gases in Marion County and has the dubious distinction of being the number twenty generator of these gases in the state of Oregon. Certainly, this is an issue that needs to be addressed, given the ongoing and worsening consequences of catastrophic climate disruption.

You need to seriously consider alternatives to this present situation that only benefits a multinational corporation and whatever other arrangements this corporation has made with our systems of governance. The Salem City Council and the Marion County Commissioners have the duty to govern with all of their constituents in mind, and to be representing them to promote the health, safety and well-being of the community at large.

Sincerely,

Pamela Vasquez

3668 Silverstone Dr. NE

Salem, OR 97305

cayetanatabullo@gmail.com

(503) 362-0489