

From: [Libby Dalton](#)
To: [Dec Air Comment](#)
Subject: Air Quality in Fairbanks
Date: Tuesday, July 23, 2019 9:20:43 AM

I'm a life long Alaskan, born and raised in Fairbanks. I'm very concerned about the EPA plan to make us switch to more expensive fuel oil.

I spend between \$4,000 and \$6,000 per year on heating oil to heat my home and garage. The amount (or gallons used) depends on the severity of the winter weather. This is my largest expense by far. I can't afford a major increase. This would severely impact my ability to continue living here. We don't have the natural gas that Anchorage and the Kenai Peninsula enjoy.

This change would be devastating to my family and community. People are leaving Fairbanks now in large numbers for two reasons; 1. high cost of living, 2. financial instability in the economy. Homes for sale are at an all time high. Enrollment in schools is down everywhere. The migration is noticeable.

We just finished 10 to 12 days of extreme smoke filled air from a number of forest fires nearby Fairbanks and the air quality was absolutely horrible. I have never experienced this in our winter months from wood smoke. The winter PM2.5 particulate problem is not as severe to health and activities as our summer smoke. Soccer games, baseball games, tennis, outdoor camps, bicycling and running events are cancelled due to poor air quality. Winter events continue because we aren't outside as much doing our activities.

The burden of this potential change of switching to a more expensive home heating oil should not be placed solely on the property owners. It's not fair to home owners. We already pay high taxes to support our schools and community. A less extreme option would be the use of electrostatic precipitators which have been found to mitigate fine particulates. This is an option a home owner can afford. It makes sense.

Please consider the financial impact of implementing new regulations to clean up the air in Fairbanks. I want to remain living here. I want to start a new business here. I can't do it if the cost of heating my home and business increases dramatically. I will leave like many of my friends, neighbors and co-workers have done already.

Thank you.

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