

Cindy Heil
Division of Air Quality ADEC
555 Cordova St.
Anchorage AK 99501



June 27, 2019

Ms. Heil;

I am in favor of any and all regulation of particulates in the Borough. I have had numerous pneumonias over the years and I now have bronchiectasis, permanent lung damage which requires daily treatment. If the particulates get into the red zone I stay indoors at home or the library. If it stays red, I'm forced to leave town. At great cost, I leave in the winter, in part because of the pollution.

I understand that many Alaskans believe they live on the frontier. Apparently this means that you get to live according to your own needs and no one else's. I lived in the bush for many years before I moved to the big city of Fairbanks. People in the villages understand what it means to be a true Alaskan. It means that you work for the common good, share the resources and help those in need.

Let me just address two points made by Mike Prax in the Newsminer's June 27th report of his testimony. He said that people will follow voluntary guidelines and that the plan over-regulates individual freedom.

First, we have tried to get regulations in place for years. People like Mr. Prax voted against Borough regulation knowing that this would shift responsibility to the State. Finally the Borough tried to put voluntary regulations in place without much improvement. Nor was the State effective. Now they object to the Federal Government taking over. So much for local control! Couldn't they see that this would happen? I certainly could and I hoped it would.

Mr. Prax says we need to trust people. I live in University West. We had a resident who burned an outdoor heater right next to the elementary school. You could see smoke in the halls. Children without asthma were sent to the emergency room. The kids couldn't go out for recess for weeks at a time. When the nurse visited the man and described the situation, the man basically said, "It's a free country." We should trust people like this? After years of unsuccessful voluntary guidelines, that argument has lost its persuasiveness.

As for people who can't afford the transition, I agree with Dr. Hanley's testimony that we need more money. We need to help these folks. The government built levees at *huge* cost when the city flooded. Now we are flooded with poisonous air. I also agree with Dr. Hanley that we need consequences for those who don't follow the regulations. Perhaps the neighbor I described should be required to pay my medical bills.

Mr. Prax's second statement, that this government regulation oversteps individual freedom, ignores *my* reality. What would Mr. Prax think if the Government required him to stay indoors for days at a time? What if he was forced to leave the city for weeks at a time? What if he was required to spend almost an hour every day having lung treatments? My individual rights have been abrogated for years by these people. The job of regulators is to protect those of us who aren't able to protect ourselves. Please help!

With respect,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robin E. Barker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Robin Barker
4700 Drake St.
Fairbanks AK 99709