Wendy Page

From: Beau Erickson <darmstad@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 8:52 PM
To: Wendy Page
Subject: UPDATED: Public Comment Submission for Sept 28 Health & Wellness Committee Meeting

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Dear Wendy,

Please use this updated version of my public comment for the upcoming Health & Wellness Committee meeting packet, as it correctly references our local Davis County Health Department. Please discard my previous submission from a few minutes ago.

Thank you so much for your assistance.

Beau Erickson

Dear Members of the North Salt Lake Health and Wellness Committee,

Please accept this formal written comment regarding the Proposed Air Quality Incentives Program on the September 28th meeting agenda. I request that this full statement be entered into the official public record and distributed to all committee members prior to the discussion at the Council Conference Room.

While I strongly support city-led initiatives to incentivize clean energy and residential health, our current framework has a critical blind spot: we are completely blind to acute, short-term industrial gas releases.

I urge this committee to expand the scope of the Proposed Air Quality Incentives Program to recommend that the City Council formally apply for a partnership under the EPA Region 8 Air Sensor Loan Program to establish real-time boundary monitoring on city-owned property bordering the industrial refinery sector.

Below is the localized data and justification that positions North Salt Lake as an urgent, prime candidate for federal EPA monitoring resources:

1. Extreme Proximity and High Density of Facilities
The Foxboro neighborhood sits directly adjacent to a dense corridor of heavy petroleum refining facilities. Unlike general urban air pollution, our neighborhood faces direct fenceline exposure to Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and toxic gases (such as Benzene, Toluene, and Hydrogen Sulfide).

2. High-Risk Population Density & The Measurable Cost to Our Children
Foxboro is one of North Salt Lake's highest-density residential zones, uniquely packed with young

families, local parks, and schools like Foxboro Elementary. Exposure to petroleum-based VOCs like benzene is not just an unpleasant smell—it has a compounding, documented toll on our families. Physically, our children are being exposed to neurological toxins that cause short-term headaches, dizziness, and nausea, alongside long-term elevated risks for childhood leukemia and other cancers. Academically, multiple peer-reviewed studies show that spikes in localized industrial air pollution directly correlate with immediate drops in student test scores and higher school absenteeism due to respiratory illness. We are asking Foxboro children to pay for a lack of monitoring with their health and their education.

3. Severe Regional Ozone Nonattainment
The Northern Wasatch Front is under severe federal scrutiny for failing to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ground-level ozone. Because industrial VOCs are a primary precursor chemical that reacts with sunlight to form ozone, the EPA has an active, vested interest in tracing localized VOC emission spikes in our exact zip code.

4. The Failure of Passive Sampling
Current federal regulations rely heavily on passive, 14-day average sampling tubes. This methodology is fundamentally flawed for community protection. If a facility experiences an intense 24-hour leak that causes widespread acute illness in Foxboro, the spike is completely smoothed out and hidden across a two-week average. We desperately need real-time monitoring to catch these acute events.

5. Salt Lake Metro's National Pollution Standing
The Salt Lake City metropolitan area frequently ranks among the top most polluted valleys in the country for seasonal air quality. This overarching regional crisis heavily weights the EPA's Environmental Justice metrics, meaning a formal application submitted by a municipal government partner like North Salt Lake carries an exceptionally high likelihood of federal approval and equipment allocation.

Actionable Request to the Committee:

While I previously requested that the City Council allocate municipal funds for this infrastructure, the Health and Wellness Committee does not need to exhaust its own limited local programming budget to achieve this. Instead, I ask that you use your advisory power to bridge the gap between our neighborhood and the Council through two cost-saving steps:

1. Formally recommend that the City Council direct staff to coordinate a collaborative project proposal with the EPA Region 8 Air Quality Branch to secure specialized real-time VOC fenceline sensors (specifically EPA-vetted "SPod" units) through their advanced Office of Research and Development equipment pool.
2. Utilize secure city-owned property (such as the Public Works building or Foxboro municipal parks) that already has the necessary electrical and Wi-Fi infrastructure to host these sensors.

By mapping real-time gas data against wind direction, we can finally give the Davis County Health Department the clear, localized information they need to understand exactly what is drifting into our neighborhoods. Our families live, play, and go to school right on this border, and having honest, everyday data is the only way to ensure our kids are growing up in a safe environment.

Thank you for your time, dedication, and leadership on this vital issue.

Sincerely,

Beau Erickson

North Salt Lake Resident

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