

White Bear Area Neighborhood Concerned Citizens Group Statement in Support of HF 3376

HF 3376, which will be known as the White Bear Area Neighborhood Concerned Citizens Group Ban TCE Act, has set forth a ban on TCE (Trichloroethylene) which is a nasty, carcinogenic chemical that should have been banned long ago. What happened to the citizens of the White Bear area, and to many other communities in our state is heart breaking. This ban ensures it cannot happen again in my community, or others throughout the State of Minnesota.

This legislation shows what a group of 4 determined citizens can achieve, along with the amazing support of legislators, regulatory agencies, and other local elected officials. We've worked together, tirelessly, in a bi-partisan way over the last 16-months. Setting out to make right what we learned last year had been going wrong for more than 17 years.

The impacts of the TCE exposure that happened in the White Bear Area are still not fully known. We do know our air, water and soil were polluted far beyond the confines of the permit that should have governed the actions of a bad corporate neighbor. We know there is a TCE vapor plume under the building and we know there is 1,4-Dioxane in the water (a by-product of TCE). Many tests have been conducted. Many remediation actions have occurred. There is still much that needs to be done to reconcile what happened, to protect our citizens in the future and to clean up a terrible mess. The costs associated with this situation are **profound**. Tangible financial costs. Intangible costs and impact to human health are still coming to light. **This bill is an amazing step toward ensuring the actions of a bad corporate neighbor cannot recur in the future anywhere in the State of Minnesota.**

If this bill is passed, Minnesota will be only state in the union to have passed a TCE ban. Which is HUGE. But we Minnesotans are leaders. In this and many other examples. We look forward to other states following Minnesota's lead on this necessary ban.

This Bill is all about protecting human health and the environment. In the midst of the COVID-19 crisis that has changed all of our lives, it provides assurance that our elected officials are indeed putting human lives at the top of agendas.

I'm so proud to be part of the group who can be credited for making this happen. I'm grateful for the meaningful action and support of our State Representatives, Senators, Regulatory Agencies and other elected officials. It is, however, important to recognize this victory came about through the determined, focused efforts of our strong, committed, bi-partisan team. **The White Bear Area Stakeholders Group**. And a tribute to the fact that regular citizens have a voice, can make that voice heard, and can stand together with those who have the power and authority to enact meaningful change.

On behalf of the NCCG Board

Sheri Smith—White Bear Lake resident and NCCG Board member