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Utah Air Quality

1 message

Gloria Wurst [REDACTED]
To: thomasgunter@utah.gov

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Our air quality issues cannot be ignored any longer; the occasional inversions which we experienced when I first moved to the area 40 years ago have become far too frequent and are sickening the people of the state, especially the young and the old. Along the Wasatch Front, we are "blessed" with a problematic geography and accompanying weather issues. Pollution levels that would subside quickly in a flatter terrain [or would not build up to begin with] are maintained because they get stuck in the bowl formed by our eastern mountains. We are also in an area that gets impacted dramatically by wildfires in the late summer, largely because of windy conditions. These are considerations about which we can do little, if anything at all. Therefore, it is imperative that we address the issue of pollution in areas that can be controlled, especially hydrocarbon emissions from individual vehicles as well as public transportation, from equipment use, and from industrial pollution. Because the almighty dollar seems to drive so many political considerations, particularly these days, regulators have seemed very reluctant to call out businesses for the pollution they contribute. They are often given a "pass" when such discussions occur. That is unconscionable. Every polluter - individual, family, corporate - must be called to task to control the filth that is pumped into our air, whether intentionally or otherwise. Pollution control standards must be raised and polluters must be held accountable. Penalties for violation of those standards must be sufficiently "painful" to make everyone stop and think about what's happening. Enforcement of those standards must be done in a conscientious and consistent manner. This is not an easy problem to attack, but it must be done for the good of the public health.

Sincerely,
Gloria Z Wurst