

## Public Comment on Docket#2020-P-Multi-0024 - Listen to communities on the Port Expansion

Nancy Boyer (neboyer@aol.com) Sent You a Personal Message <automail@knowwho.com>

Mon 11/30/2020 4:35 PM

To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources) <DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov>

Dear Public Hearing Officer,

This issue matters to me because I want the City of Wilmington and the State of Delaware to be communities where all citizens are respected equally and the health and well-being of everyone is protected. When I visited Fox Point State Park on Nov. 21, I saw what a beautiful place that can be, as a bird sanctuary and place of respite and peace from the surrounding city. Surely, exemplary facilities can be built just south of Fox Point, which advance economic prosperity without sacrificing quality of life, health and well-being (air quality, water quality, impacts of ozone pollution on climate change, traffic congestion, and impacts of additional heat generation on weather patterns). Also, how is the proposed timing of the expansion of the Port to be reconciled with scheduled maintenance of I-95, 2021-2023? All best regards, Nancy

I am concerned about the planned expansion of the Port of Wilmington as it was outlined in a Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC). Public Comment hearing held on September 29, 2020 (Docket# 2020-P-Multi-0024). Three detailed plans were presented, with communities given only one month to respond to very technical information. DCBAC and other groups voiced their concerns and the comment period was extended for 30 days to December 1, 2020.

I am now expressing my support for the following:

- ? Establishment of an inclusive development/planning process
- ? A binding Community Benefits Agreement developed with DCBAC and its impacted community residents
- ? Protections from potential health and environmental dangers as well as safeguards against existing resident displacement due to port-related land use issues, in advance of permit approvals
- ? Additional Public Hearings on the port expansion

I support development when it is done appropriately and understand that the DCBAC feels the same. Many members of the communities near and around the port have experienced years of under and disinvestment. I am therefore interested in development, as long as it does not cause harm to the health and wellbeing of citizens or environment, is conducted in a transparent manner and deeply engages local residents as partners in a port expansion.

The disproportionate and unchecked siting of polluting facilities in and near people of color and low-income communities is well-documented. Black communities near the port already suffer from high rates of cancer, and respiratory ailments. These pre-existing conditions have resulted in higher death rates during this Coronavirus Pandemic. The result of this environmental racism is that Black communities have often been used as Sacrifice Zones.

Toxic compounds like Dioxin and Arsenic will be released during the dredging process to deepen the Delaware River for the port expansion. Communities have not been included in essential discussions about the potential impact of increased diesel emissions from trucks or possible neighborhood disruptions from off-port development. This is not right.

Again, as with the DCBAC, I support development when it is done right. Several areas in the nation have approached port expansion with communities as partners. The DCBAC is seeking the same kind of inclusion here in Delaware. The DCBAC is communicating with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the EPA is supportive of collaborative port planning models.

Sincerely,

Nancy Boyer  
425 Nottingham Road  
Newark, DE 19711  
neboyer@aol.com  
(302) 731-4087

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at [core.help@sierraclub.org](mailto:core.help@sierraclub.org) or (415) 977-5500.