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Posted by the **Environmental Protection Agency** on Feb 13, 2025

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Comment

Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OLEM-2024-0360

Dear Administrator:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) long-awaited interim Cumulative Impacts Framework.

Cumulative impacts are the risks and impacts caused by multiple pollutants, both in isolation and through their interaction with each other and any social vulnerabilities that exist in a community. These pollutants are usually emitted by multiple sources located within or near a community.

My community in Southwest Detroit is disproportionately exposed to many harmful chemicals in our homes and workplaces, diesel exhaust from high levels of truck and other vehicular traffic and industrial facilities in our neighborhood that actively pollute the air and water -- including the state's only petroleum refinery, a municipal wastewater treatment plant, asphalt plant, auto manufacturing and painting plants, steel plants, power plants, and much more. All this is in addition to legacy pollution from past contamination in our water, soil, and food chains. Health stressors, such as lack of access to health care and healthy food access, exacerbated by systemic racism and unjust public policies, contribute to cumulative impacts.

Here in Southwest Detroit, where I've lived for more than 3 decades, we not only live with dozens of industrial air pollution sources, but also the health effects that result from these multiple exposures. Raising my daughter in this area no doubt contributed to the asthma she experienced, including endless trips to the doctor and emergency room, along with missed days of school for her, and missed days of work for myself and my husband. The cumulative impacts of the many exposures we live are real impacts and affect many aspects of our health and well-being.

But these cumulative impacts are rarely taken into consideration in air pollution permitting and other

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environmental decision-making. That's why I support the work that scientists at EPA have done over the years to assess and reduce cumulative impacts. It’s been an approach that could make people safer and healthier, and for communities like mine, it can be a matter of life and death.

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