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AND THE INTERNET

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 6, 2018

Andrew Wheeler  
Acting Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Acting Administrator Wheeler:

I write to you about MAT Asphalt LLC which recently opened a facility for large-scale production of asphalt near McKinley Park in my District at 4010 S. Damen Ave., Chicago, IL. The facility's opening took me and McKinley Park neighbors by surprise. Local residents, public health advocates, and elected officials have shared their concerns about the process in which MAT Asphalt was able to move into the community without notice to or engagement with the community.

Given the lack of transparency of the facility's opening, I request that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) exercise its authority to review the opening of MAT Asphalt and to ensure that the company and any parties involved in its opening have complied with any and all environmental rules and regulations under your jurisdiction.

According to the construction permit, MAT Asphalt is permitted to produce up to 890,000 tons of asphalt per year. The health ramifications of having such large-scale asphalt production in close proximity to homes, a school and a public park are deeply concerning. It is well documented that exposure to particulate matter can cause long-term cardiac and respiratory illnesses. This is a major concern for local residents, a majority of whom are Latinos and people of color, who already experience unacceptably high levels of asthma. Further pollution and health worries stem from the significant increase of diesel fueled vehicles entering and exiting the plant. I therefore also ask the US EPA to monitor air quality levels in the area and provide all possible resources to the local community to reduce negative health impacts.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your prompt response. If you have any questions about this matter please contact me or Rafael Hurtado of my staff at (202) 225-8203.

Sincerely,



Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress