

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1304

October 11, 2019

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Administrator Andrew Wheeler
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Code 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
Regional Administrator Cathy Stepp
77 W. Jackson Blvd
Chicago, IL 60604

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Director John J. Kim
1021 North Grand Ave East, P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794

Chicago Department of Public Health
Interim Commissioner Alison Arwady
333 S State St #200
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Administrator Wheeler, Regional Administrator Stepp, Director Kim, and Interim Commissioner Arwady,

I write to request your cooperation in addressing the concerns of my constituents regarding the MAT Asphalt Plant which began operations about a year ago at 2055 W Pershing Rd, Chicago, IL 60609.

Community members have serious concerns about the odors and emissions generated by the plant, especially given its proximity to schools, homes, apartments, and a public park.

Neighborhood residents have also expressed frustration about the inadequate response they have received from local, state, and federal agencies when requesting information and documentation about the plant's operations and emissions. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests have revealed that staff in the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) have not always taken residents' complaints seriously, in one exchange alleging that community members file complaints "just for fun."

The Southwest side of Chicago hosts a disproportionate number of industrial corridors, a circumstance which has significant health ramifications for those who live, work, and learn nearby.

As the MAT Asphalt Plant applies to extend its permit with the IEPA, I urge you to provide transparency to residents and to enforce all relevant rules, regulations, and required inspections under your agency's purview to ensure that the plant is in compliance with permitting

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regulations. I am also requesting that you inform my office, relevant environmental organization stakeholders and community members of your plans to enforce applicable environmental and health standards that have been the subject of speculation and complaints in the past.

When it comes to the health and safety of the public, it is imperative that regulatory and statutory requirements are fully observed and strictly enforced.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your response and cooperation. If you have any questions regarding this topic, please contact my District Director at (773) 475-0883 or at Patty.Garcia@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress
Illinois' 4th Congressional District