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March 9, 2010

Commissioner Peter Grannis
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233

Re: Funding for the Tonawanda Air Monitors

Dear Commissioner Grannis:

I am writing you on behalf of the Clean Air Coalition of Western New York. I have been a supporter of this organization's great work to fight air pollution and ensure clean air for the residents of my district. I thank you for the attention the DEC has given to this local organization to date.

As you know, the Tonawanda Community Air Quality Study was initiated in 2007 to evaluate air pollutant concentrations in the industrial area of Tonawanda. The monitoring found five hazardous air pollutants in excess of state guidelines and identified the worst air polluters in Tonawanda, including Tonawanda Coke Corporation. Measures have been taken by your office and the federal EPA against Tonawanda Coke. This illustrates why air monitoring should continue in Tonawanda – to identify polluters, ensure regulatory action and protect human health in the region.

Current funding for air monitoring will expire in April 2010 and I urge you to renew this funding through 2012. Discontinuing monitoring sends a signal to polluters that they are no longer being watched. Thank you for your attention to this matter and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

SAM HOYT
MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY

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