



ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

HON. KEVIN R. HARDWICK

LEGISLATOR

March 12, 2015

Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. McCarthy:

I represent approximately 85,000 people in the Erie County Legislature. My constituents in the City of Tonawanda, Town of Tonawanda and Town of Grand Island have long endured the effects of air pollution from the more than 50 permitted facilities within a 2-mile radius of the Town of Tonawanda.

Two years ago I spent much of the summer going door-to-door informing citizens about their rights to file victim impact statements in connection with the sentencing phase of the Tonawanda Coke trial. As a political science professor at a local college and a county legislator, I thought I was educating the public. By the end of the summer, however, it was I who had been enlightened. People would stand on their porch and tick off the causes of their neighbors' deaths. They would point to the houses on the street and say cancer, cancer, cancer, emphysema, cancer and so on. It was as eye opening as it was frightening. It was also a life changing experience and has caused me to be nervous about other sources of air pollution in this immediate area.

For this reason, I am concerned that your agency closely scrutinizes the renewal of the DuPont Yerkess Title V (Permit ID 9-1464-00031/00292). I am merely a social scientist, not an engineer or a chemist. So I do not know the impact of parts per million of this or that chemical. But as someone who teaches the public administration courses at Canisius College in Buffalo, I know that this is why we have an EPA. I ask you, therefore, to make certain that everything that can be done to protect the people of Grand Island and the Tonawandas from adverse levels of air pollution is indeed done.

On behalf of my constituents, I thank you for your attention to this incredibly important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin R. Hardwick".

Kevin R. Hardwick, Ph.D.
4th District Legislator