



ORGANIZING for HEALTH and JUSTICE

Senator Charles Schumer
1300 South Elmwood Ave. #660
Buffalo, NY 14202

January 31, 2017

Dear Senator Schumer,

On behalf of Clean Air, thank you for voicing opposition to Jeff Sessions for Attorney General, and Scott Pruitt to lead the Environmental Protection Agency. The nominations of both pose a direct threat to the health and quality of life of our membership base. These nominations signal the elimination of critical environmental, climate, and public health regulations. If confirmed, we expect policies protecting environmental justice communities, like ours in Western New York, and enforcement of those laws, to be targeted, weakened, or altogether eliminated.

As you know, Clean Air has been running and winning campaigns for health and equity in Western New York for over 10 years. Our members who live in Tonawanda have organized to reduce toxic emissions from companies like Tonawanda Coke, DuPont, Noco, and are fighting to transition the decommissioned Huntley Coal site in a way that grows the economy and improves public health. On Buffalo's East side we have been organizing to clean up a legacy waste site that has been leaking PCB's, which are known to cause cancer and other health problems. We have instigated a state enforcement action against the Battaglia Demolition Company whose actions are destroying a neighborhood's quality of life in the Seneca Babcock area.

Today, data shows that the levels of pollutants in Erie County are the lowest on record in the last seven years. In Tonawanda alone, benzene - a known carcinogen - has been reduced by 92%. The public health gains that we have made are now at risk of being dismantled.

You know because you have personally stood with us to bring enforcement action against Tonawanda Coke, you spoke out with our members on Peabody Street enabling a NYS Attorney General lawsuit against Battaglia, and you have advocated for federal resources to help transition the Huntley Coal site in Tonawanda - and helped our Just Transition Coalition access planning resources through the Economic Development Agency's Power Plus fund.

We are asking you to continue to support Western New Yorkers' Environmental Justice communities now; to continue to voice opposition of both the appointments for the EPA and the AG's offices and to urge others to show opposition and vote 'no' with you on the nominations of Sessions and Pruitt.

Make no mistake; the next four years are going to be increasingly difficult for our communities. We hope you will continue to stand with us, fight with us, and represent us in Congress.

Sincerely,

Clean Air Staff and Membership

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