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ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 6, 2020

Ms. Liesl Eichler Clark
Director
Department of Environment, Great Lakes,
and Energy
525 West Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909-7973

Dear Director Clark:

This letter is in regard to the ongoing demolition and abatement activities at the former McLouth Steel site in Trenton, Michigan. It has been brought to my attention that on or about March 4, 2020, constituents in my district reported seeing a large release of dust emitted into the environment after a structural collapse on site. There are serious concerns in the community that this release of dust may be another harmful human health event.

Over the last year, the McLouth Steel remediation project has had an alarming history of asbestos violations. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE, or formally known as the Michigan Department of Environment Quality) issued asbestos violation notices to the owners and operator of the site on January 22, 2019, and on November 25, 2019, and many in the community witnessed similar dust cloud releases in the past.

The reports of another dust cloud event with asbestos threat implications possible, we are frustrated and concerned. Please provide my office a full report of what happened and if any asbestos was released into the air or outside the perimeter of the site. Also, please provided an update on the specific actions both EGLE and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are taking or considering to prevent future violations at this site. It is important the community is informed and has a full understanding of what is happening as it happens and would urge all parties to develop improved communication plans for our residents.

The residents of the surrounding Downriver communities have to breathe this air and it is our collective responsibility to ensure this project is carried out with the highest attention to public safety and environmental protection. Thank you in advance for your attention and work on this important matter. We look forward to a full and prompt response.

Sincerely,



DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress

cc:

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
21st Century Salvage
Next Generation Environmental
Crown Enterprises, LLC