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THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

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

June 26, 2024

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The Honorable Debra Shore
Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Administrator Shore:

I am writing to request your attention to an oil spill that occurred in Northville, Michigan. On June 21, 2024, a demolition crew's machinery pierced upwards of 12 55-gallon steel drums and a poly tote storage container containing motor oil while taking down a building in the Downs Development site in Northville. The contaminants leaked onto the asphalt and entered a nearby storm drain, which then entered the Rouge River. Upon discovery of the leak, Northville emergency services and the Western Wayne County HazMat Team quickly responded to the site and began containment procedures.

In the days since, I have been working closely with the city, county, and Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to ensure all necessary precautions have been taken to address this incident in a timely manner. Although we await results from testing, it is believed less than 100 gallons of material were released into the environment. Two booms have been deployed to capture and contain the oil, and EGLE has reported that no oil has been observed in the river since Friday. A private contractor will continue clean up and containment measures.

Protecting our community's natural lands and waterways is of critical importance, and I know it is a priority we both share. The city, county, and I have had discussions with EGLE to ensure we are taking all necessary steps to protect residents. It is critical the EPA is aware of this situation and monitors its developments to ensure this contamination does not present risks to the public or to our environment.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and I look forward to continuing our work to protect our communities and our environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Dingell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

CC:

Phil Roos, Director, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
Warren Evans, Wayne County Executive
Mayor Brian Turnbull, Mayor of Northville