



STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State House, Second Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

March 7, 2017

Mr. Scott Pruitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mail Code: 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

RE: East Chicago, Indiana, Assistance

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

First and foremost, congratulations on your appointment and thank you for making time to meet with me in Washington during the National Governors Association meetings in late February. We are so pleased to know that you will be a strong partner for us at the EPA as we work on the challenges facing our communities.

I was particularly encouraged by your comments about your intention to provide states greater flexibility to identify and implement local solutions. As a former state official, you understand better than many in Washington how effective state and local leaders can be when freed from onerous oversight. Indiana has an outstanding track record of developing effective strategies by Hoosiers for Hoosiers, and the sentiments you shared during our meeting were certainly most welcomed.

I deeply appreciate your expressed to address the high number of Superfund sites that remain on the register and to make the site in East Chicago one of your first priorities. As I shared with you, the wellbeing of residents living within the East Chicago Superfund Site is one of my highest priorities as governor. For that reason, I issued an emergency disaster declaration for the East Chicago Superfund Site in February.

To ensure we explore all appropriate resources available through our federal partnerships, please consider these requests:

- I invite you and key members of your staff to visit East Chicago and the Superfund Site as soon as your travel schedule permits to meet residents and local officials and learn about how this situation is impacting the lives of Hoosiers who live there.

- I ask that you would please expedite the indoor cleanups of homes with lead and arsenic levels above safe levels. I am referring to Action Memo #5, a necessary step that will facilitate the indoor cleaning of the priority homes in Zones 2 and 3 as soon as possible. The EPA previously indicated that excavation in Zones 2 and 3 will recommence in April, a schedule to which I hope you will adhere.
- I request the allocation of additional EPA funds to the Indiana State Revolving Loan Program for the East Chicago lead line replacement project. Further, I request flexibility to use the funds for non-traditional purposes, so that we can tailor our response to the needs of individual property owners. We also will submit a letter of interest for funding from your agency's new Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program and look forward to discussing the application with your team.
- Finally, with East Chicago Mayor Anthony Copeland, we ask that EPA remediation activities in the Superfund Site are coordinated, whenever possible, to coincide with lead line replacement activities so homes and yards are not disturbed more than once.

All of these efforts will help ensure residents in the Superfund area have safe drinking water and will demonstrate that we are working together to protect the public health of East Chicago residents.

Again, thank you for meeting with me last month. Hoosiers are excited to have a true partner at the EPA. Your warm welcome and willingness to engage thoughtfully and honestly on these important issues means a great deal to me and my team. I look forward to your visit and for the opportunity to further discuss how we can partner in East Chicago and throughout Indiana in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric J. Holcomb". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

cc: Mr. Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff

Mr. Robert Kaplan
Regional Administrator
USEPA Region 5