



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

Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

March 6, 2017

Dr. Benjamin S. Carson, Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

RE: East Chicago, Indiana, Assistance

Dear Secretary Carson:

First, congratulations on your appointment to this extremely important position. The support of the Department of Housing and Urban Development is vital to so many Indiana communities, and I look forward to working closely with you on our shared goals.

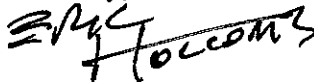
I write today to request that you make East Chicago one of your very first visits as you coordinate your travel nationwide, ideally before the end of the month. The urgency of the East Chicago Superfund Site situation is significant. I am confident that a visit to the site and a conversation with the mayor and other stakeholders will not only send a clear message of commitment to the community but provide you and your team a much deeper understanding of the challenges these Hoosiers face.

As you may be aware, the city of East Chicago in northwest Indiana houses the USS Lead Superfund Site, a span of three heavily residential zones that the EPA has called one of the worst contaminated sites in the country. Indiana has responded with increased testing and one-stop shops to provide residents greater access to services. Additionally, in partnership with HUD, Indiana has responded with support for the efforts made by the East Chicago Housing Authority (ECHA) to responsibly relocate residents of the West Calumet Housing Complex (Superfund Site Zone 1) to suitable accommodations. This has included additional funding and staff through the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) to assist with relocations of the most vulnerable residents, a process that is ongoing.

To date, 248 families within the Zone 1 housing complex have relocated, which accounts for more than 870 residents. Still, roughly 97 families remain on the property, and the ECHA has set a March 31 deadline for all residents to relocate. My administration will continue to work to ensure that the relocation process happens as expeditiously and safely as possible, and I remain committed to making resources available to that end.

The IHCDA, the ECHA, and HUD have worked well together throughout this difficult process, and I appreciate very much the efforts of your regional staff. It is a relationship upon which I hope we can build, and I look forward to connecting with you directly in East Chicago very soon. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide any more insight or information.

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: Ms. Sheila Greenwood
Chief of Staff

Mr. James A. Cunningham
Deputy Regional Administrator