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CAUCUS



BOBBY L. RUSH
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
1ST DISTRICT, ILLINOIS
WEBSITE: <http://www.house.gov/rush>

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2416 RAYBURN HOB
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4372
(202) 226-0333 (FAX)

CHICAGO OFFICE:
700-706 E 79TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60619
(773) 224-6500
(773) 224-9624 (FAX)

MIDLOTHIAN OFFICE:
3235 WEST 147TH STREET
MIDLOTHIAN, ILLINOIS 60445
(708) 385-9550
(708) 385-3660 (FAX)

April 20, 2009

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Administrator Jackson:

I am writing regarding a matter of grave concern to me and the over 11,000 citizens of my congressional district in the Village of Crestwood. According to various media reports over this past weekend, Crestwood residents have been exposed to drinking water contaminated with perchloroethylene (PCE), a chemical linked to cancer, liver damage and neurological problems. The source of the water is a well operated by the Village of Crestwood. I am incensed to learn that over the past 20 years, more than 51 million gallons of poisonous water has been distributed to Crestwood residents every year.

It has been reported that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and the Illinois Attorney General have initiated investigations into this matter at various stages. Additionally, I am advised that certain documents, investigations, and communications have been produced and conducted regarding this matter over the years, which may or may not have involved the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

As the duly elected federal representative of the citizens of Crestwood, I am appalled that this situation has not been brought to my attention by the responsible federal and local governmental agencies. Therefore, I am requesting an informational meeting with you this week regarding the content and context of any federal involvement in this matter. I am specifically requesting that you provide me with a full report on the status of the enforcement procedures and obligations in this instance under the Safe Drinking Water Act, whereby municipalities are required to verify the safety of local drinking water under Section 114 of P.L. 104-182.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact my Legislative Director, Christopher Brown, at (202)225-4372 or cmbrown@mail.house.gov. I thank you for your time and attention, and I look forward to meeting as soon as possible to discuss this matter of extreme importance and urgency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bobby L. Rush".

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

cc: Hon. Henry A. Waxman, Chairman, Committee on Energy & Commerce
Hon. Edward A. Markey, Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy & Environment
Michael H. Shapiro, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency
Acting Secretary Charles E. Johnson, Department of Health & Human Services