

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 10, 2013

Dr. Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region V
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Dr. Hedman:

We are writing concerning the Allied Operable Unit #1 Superfund Site (Allied Site) in Kalamazoo, Michigan. As you know, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is in the process of determining the final remediation plan for this site and its cleanup is of the utmost importance to the people living in the Kalamazoo area and to us.

The Allied Site is located in the heart of Kalamazoo and is bordered by vibrant neighborhoods, where residents want this threat to the environment and public health dealt with permanently. The decision of a final remediation plan is of critical importance to these communities.

The City of Kalamazoo and area residents favor the total removal of all PCB contaminated materials from the Allied Site. The Allied Site is located within a wellhead protection area for multiple well fields providing ground water for the municipal drinking water system. Because of this situation, the City of Kalamazoo is concerned the contaminated material could threaten the city's water supply. The city has a firm bid from a Michigan contractor for \$120 million to remove all the contaminated material for permanent disposal in a qualified landfill. That amount is far different from the \$330 million figure the EPA assumed when making its decision to cap the landfill instead of removing the offending material. While this removal action would cost more than capping the landfill, the Superfund law states a clear preference for the selection of remedial actions that involve permanent removal, and thus EPA should strongly consider this remedy. Further, permanent removal may in fact be more cost-effective in the long-term since the site would not need to be monitored in perpetuity, and it could be re-developed for a variety of uses.

We ask that you continue to work with the City and community members to address their concerns and adopt the full removal option at the Allied Site given its many benefits. We urge your urgent attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


Senator Debbie Stabenow


Senator Carl Levin


Representative Fred Upton