

United States Senate

September 27, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Acting Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Acting Administrator Wheeler:

For three months, we have sought to meet with Ms. Cathy Stepp, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 5 Administrator, to discuss several urgent issues of critical importance to us and our constituents in Illinois.

On three different occasions, after her office confirmed meetings with us both, Administrator Stepp cancelled these appointments with little to no notice. Our offices were not even provided the courtesy of a reason for the cancellation of the third meeting, which was supposed to take place this week. And no effort has been made to reschedule the appointment.

While we understand exigent circumstances may arise that result in unforeseen and uncontrollable schedule changes, Ms. Stepp's repeated pattern of cancellation with little notice or explanation is not acceptable to our constituents, whose health and well-being depend on Region 5 efficiently and successfully protecting them from harmful pollution and toxic chemicals. Given the recent history of Region 5, we are especially alarmed by the apparent lack of urgency and responsiveness from the Regional Administrator.

We request that you meet with us at your earliest convenience so that we can finally get answers to our congressional oversight inquiries regarding several urgent issues affecting Illinois residents. We would appreciate a response by Monday, October 1, 2018.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable John Barrasso, Chairman, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
cc: The Honorable Tom Carper, Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee