

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 15, 2019

Mr. Bill Wehrum  
Assistant Administrator  
Air and Radiation Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Assistant Administrator Wehrum:

We write to you to reiterate our concern about the industrial usage of ethylene oxide (EtO) in Lake County, IL, and urge you to begin monitoring for EtO in the communities near Medline Industries, Inc. in Waukegan, IL, and Vantage Specialty Chemicals, Inc. in Gurnee, IL, immediately. As underscored by the deeply alarming data published last week by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on ambient air levels of EtO in Willowbrook due to the Sterigenics facility, this remains a critical issue to us—and to our constituents who live near facilities that emit EtO.


The divergence between the self-reported emissions data and recently-released ambient air data in Willowbrook makes clear that we cannot rely on self-reported data from EtO-emitting facilities alone to determine the risk local communities face. EPA's monitoring showed that, despite taking significant steps to mitigate fugitive emissions, ambient EtO levels were as high as 350 times the allowable threshold around the Sterigenics facility. As a result, we demand EPA immediately begin ambient air monitoring for the two facilities in Lake County. Our constituents deserve to know more about emissions in their backyard and we see absolutely no reason for further delay.

Although we appreciate that EPA has been working with the two facilities in Lake County that use EtO to assess their emissions levels, we are disappointed the EPA has not yet begun ambient air monitoring in the areas surrounding these facilities. It is essential that EPA provide the local communities with more information—as quickly as possible—about ambient EtO levels. Our constituents deserve greater assurance that the air they breathe is safe.

There are approximately 23,000 constituents living near these facilities—we cannot stress the urgency with which we view this issue. We appreciate your consideration of our

concerns and expect you to act with the necessary expediency that this situation merits. Please do not hesitate to contact our staff should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Bradley S. Schneider  
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Lauren Underwood  
Member of Congress



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator