

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

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January 20, 2012

The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
1200 Ariel Rios Building
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear EPA Administrator Jackson:

Thank you for your attention to dioxin. The EPA's Dioxin Reassessment document is extremely important to the health of the American people, and I applaud your efforts to bring this long-delayed process to closure. Since 1985, efforts by EPA to assess the risks of dioxin have been delayed time and time again, even though scientists at EPA have long concluded that dioxin and dioxin-like compounds are highly toxic.

I urge you to finalize the non-cancer portion of the dioxin reanalysis by the end of this January, and to finalize the cancer portion as quickly as possible thereafter, as you have pledged.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters represents more than 1.4 million workers in North America. Teamsters work in the ports, airlines, road, rail, food processing, waste and recycling industries, and more. Over 32,000 of our members are represented by the Teamsters Solid Waste, Recycling and Related Industries Division. The Teamsters Union is committed to standing up for the rights of all waste workers.

January 20, 2012

Page 2

Waste workers may potentially be exposed to dioxin from landfill fires, the disposal of residual ash generated by incineration, and commercial and industrial sites that were not properly cleaned up.

According to your Agency's January 5, 2012 report, air releases of dioxin rose 10 percent from 2009-2010, while other releases, such as landfill disposal, increased 18 percent.

These exposures to dioxin, in addition to its presence in our food supply, means that waste workers may face increased risks of high dioxin levels.

I am pleased that the EPA "is committed to a transparent, scientifically sound process to determine how this chemical impacts Americans' health" and I respectfully urge you to move expeditiously, past two decades of delay, to guard the health of American workers, families and the public from this unnecessary hazard.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your commitment to protecting America's health and environment.

Sincerely,



James P. Hoffa
General President

JPH/bg

cc: Cass Sunstein, Administrator, Office of Information and
Regulatory Affairs
Nancy Sutley, Chair, White House Council on Environmental
Quality (CEQ)
Paul Anastas, Assistant Administrator, Office of Research and
Development, EPA
Rebecca Clark, Acting Director, National Center for
Environmental Assessment