October 3, 2018

The Honorable Patrick Breysse
Director
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
4770 Buford Hwy NE
Atlanta, GA 30341

Dear Dr. Breysse:

I am writing to request a new health consultation to evaluate the potential public health impacts from ethylene oxide emissions in Willowbrook, Illinois and surrounding communities. You issued a health consultation on this issue on August 21, 2018 that took into account emissions, monitoring, and modeled data available at that time, however, since then, conditions have changed and new data have become available. Given the serious nature of the potential health risks and the high level of public concern around this issue, I think it is important to provide the public with up-to-date information, in a non-technical format, that provides answers to their key questions.

Sterigenics, the primary source of ethylene oxide emissions in Willowbrook, upgraded its emissions control equipment in July 2018, in an effort to lower emissions. Performance testing for the reconfigured emissions control system was not conducted until September 20 and 21, 2018, however, thus the upgrade was not reflected in the August 21 health consultation. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), final test results and updated modeling from the September tests will be available in the coming weeks. In addition, USEPA plans to conduct a new round of air monitoring in the area surrounding the Sterigenics facility, to assess the conditions following the pollution control system upgrade. An earlier round of USEPA air monitoring data, collected May 16-18, 2018, was analyzed in the August 21 health consultation. This additional round of monitoring will help clarify whether any excess cancer risk remains in the surrounding communities following Sterigenics’ emissions control upgrade.

In addition to producing a new health consultation document, I request that you work with both the USEPA and the Illinois EPA to produce a non-technical summary of the findings of the consultation, which should be publicly posted at the same time the consultation is released.

Should you have any questions, please contact Joel Creswell in my Washington, DC office at 202-225-5701 or joel.creswell@mail.house.gov.
RE: New Health Consultation on Ethylene Oxide Emissions
Page 2

Sincerely,

Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress

Cc: Bill Wehrum, Assistant Administrator, USEPA Office of Air and Radiation
    Cathy Stepp, Administrator, USEPA Region 5
    Alec Messina, Director, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
    Mark Johnson, Director, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Region 5