



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
LANSING



PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

August 9, 2023

VIA EMAIL

Mona Munroe-Younis, Executive Director
Environmental Transformation Movement of Flint

Nayyirah Shariff, Executive Director, Flint Rising

Ted Zahrfeld, Board Chair, St. Francis Prayer Center

Dear Mona, Nayyirah, and Ted:

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you to discuss concerns regarding the community located in the vicinity of the Ajax facility and the informal complaint resolution process. As the new director of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), I want you to know that I am committed to taking meaningful action on environmental justice concerns and identifying proactive opportunities to address both emerging and long-standing issues. As we discussed during our meeting, EGLE and I personally are committed to working collaboratively with you moving forward.

Regina and I have reviewed your letter and have discussed ways to address the issues you highlighted. We agree that continuing to work proactively with environmental justice communities is an important priority.

As a department, our commitment to upholding Title VI and civil rights in our work is paramount. That is why we will continue to address community concerns that arise and to collaborate with our federal and local government partners in that effort. I want to assure you that EGLE remains committed to protecting the environment and public health in overburdened communities. That is why the Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate is working with the Environmental Transformation Movement of Flint and others to initiate a Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE-EH) process in the community, and why we are interested in pursuing immediate opportunities to partner around initiatives like the Environmental Justice Public Health Fund that was included in the recent state budget.

As I shared when we met, I trust my team to continue working through the complaint resolution process. I am hopeful that we can continue building a relationship built on openness and ongoing communication, and to make progress together even outside of that agreement. Please feel free to reach out to me and/or Regina at any time if there are questions or just to talk through concerns or opportunities.

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Thank you for sharing your passion and concern, as well as your willingness to collaborate with us to continue this important work.

Sincerely,



Phillip D. Roos
Director
517-284-6712

cc: Aaron B. Keatley, Chief Deputy Director, EGLE
James Clift, Deputy Director, EGLE
Regina Strong, Environmental Justice Public Advocate, EGLE
Kara Cook, Chief of Staff, EGLE