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September 21, 2018

The Honorable Patrick McDonnell, Secretary
16th Floor Rachel Carson State Office Building
PO Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Dear Secretary McDonnell,

As you are aware, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) recently released a Letter Health Consultation regarding the American Zinc Recycling facility in Palmerton, Carbon County, Pennsylvania. This report was initiated at the request of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 3, Office of Air Protection Division Office of Air Enforcement and Compliance (APD OAECA) requesting that the ATSDR “conduct a public health evaluation of the community’s current exposures to lead in air near the operating American Zinc Recycling LLC (AZR)...”

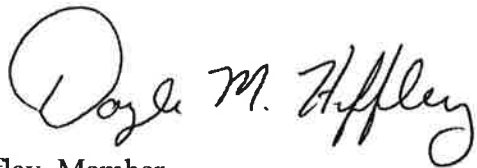
Based on their analysis, the ATSDR concluded that a public health hazard is likely for young children and/or pregnant women living within 3 miles of AZR. I am aware that the EPA and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) recently met to discuss air monitoring of lead near AZR.

While this is an important step towards protecting the residents near AZR, I strongly urge the PA DEP to monitor for other particulate matters as well as conduct additional air monitoring and sampling around the facility. It is my understanding that there are two locations outside of the facility that test for air quality. Due to the health concerns raised by the ATSDR report, I would urge the PA DEP to add additional monitors for data.

Furthermore, I recognize the work the PA DEP has already done in conducting onsite observations and following up with corrective actions. I also recognize the importance of recognizing the benefits of AZR, such as the employment opportunities, but I am also conscious of the balance we must strike between supporting industry and protecting the health of those potentially affected by this facility.

I appreciate the open dialogue from the EPA and the PA DEP concerning AZR. My hope is that this dialogue continues to further educate and protect the residents of Carbon County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doyle M. Heffley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, circular initial "D".

Doyle Heffley, Member
122nd Legislative District