US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Ann Goode, Director
Office of Civil Rights
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (MC1201A)
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Goode:

My name is Maura Rosa Williams, [redacted] I am from Denver Colorado, but recently visited Baton Rouge, LA for a Student Environmental Action Coalition conference. The conference was amazing! At the end of the conference we organized some street theatre in front of the Dept of Economic Development, which is on the ballot to be privitized! At this event I met a young black-environmental rights group, which provided me this form. I have learned that there are environmentally hazardous burdens placed discriminately on black communities in the Baton Rouge area. Both of us are aware that this is not the first time environmental racism has been claimed. It is also an issue in the Aurora area of Colorado. Regardless of the color of the people being burdened with pollution, the environmental protection standard must be adequately strict, and more importantly, enforced! I respect the EPA for your purpose! However, we both know that there have been instances - TRAGIC instances - in which the EPA has failed in properly protecting people and eco-systems from environmental harm. Effective means to protect the people of Baton Rouge and the rest of the US must be created. We need to expand efforts on what does work in restricting industrious pollution, and think of new ways that will force industry to adhere to enviromental conservation. What is happening right now is not environmentally healthy in Baton Rouge and many other places in the US and the world! The EPA is not protecting the health of the people of Baton Rouge, and pollution must be strictly enforced in order that people can lead healthy lives! The people in the black area of Baton Rouge don't even have the money to move away from the pollution! They have no choice but to breathe the pollution! Please understand, and contact my environmental organization, SEAC, if you have any questions or know of any ways we can help you!

Thank You So Much For Your Work!!! Maura

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