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December 1, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

I am writing concerning the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) second five-year review of the cleanup of the Hudson River Superfund site. As you are aware, EPA has overseen the cleanup of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from the Upper Hudson River between Fort Edward and Troy, New York.

It is my understanding that EPA is conducting a statutorily required, five-year review to ensure that the cleanup is working as intended and on track to meet the goals set by the Record of Decision, including the reduction of PCB levels in fish. However, I was disappointed to learn that EPA currently plans to collect only 375 sediment samples. I do not believe this is sufficient, and urge you to accept the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation request to increase the amount of samples significantly.

I know we share the common goals of protecting the long-term public health and environment in the region surrounding the site, which is why I urge EPA to require additional sampling and consider all available data, including data from other federal and state agencies, if appropriate, when evaluating the effectiveness of the cleanup. A robust data set is the best way to ensure that EPA's review is based on scientific evidence and fully understands the long-term potential health risks to the river's ecosystem and the people living throughout the Hudson Valley.

The federal government has a responsibility to ensure that the Hudson River is protected so that future generations can enjoy its natural resources and rich heritage without fear of health or environmental harm. I look forward to a thorough review process, which must include significant sediment sampling, to achieve the goals set by the Record of Decision.

Thank you for your consideration of my views. If you require any additional information from me, please contact my Washington, DC office.

Sincerely,



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress.