



New York State Senate

Broome County Legislature



August 27, 2020

Hon. Basil Seggos
Commissioner
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233-1011

Dear Commissioner Seggos:

We're writing today in regard to the lithium-ion battery recycling plant proposed to be sited in the Village of Endicott in Broome County.

As you may be aware, the Village of Endicott has a history of environmental and health issues due to the irresponsible practices of past industrial operations.

Residents of our community are understandably concerned about this new proposed recycling facility and the impact that it could have on the quality of the air, water and soil in the immediate neighborhood surrounding the proposed facility, as well as the broader community.

It has recently come to our attention that the processing of lithium-ion batteries for the purposes of recycling involves the handling of potentially toxic chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

Our understanding is that PFAS have been previously linked in other parts of the State to serious health risks including cancer, immunodeficiencies and reproductive issues. We also believe that the DEC did not comprehensively consider the handling and disposal of these toxins in its initial review of the project.

While it's been reported that the study of the handling and disposal of PFAS has been undertaken in some other countries and that the company proposing the recycling facility has agreed to undertake testing once the facility becomes operational, New York has a long and distinct record of conducting more complete and full reviews of issues that could impact public health and the environment. Waiting until the facility is in operation for the operator to begin testing is unacceptable.

In order to fully understand the potential impacts, we'd request that the DEC prepare a full environmental impact statement under State Environmental Quality Review Act requirements and

that the community be fully engaged in the process to ensure that residents have the opportunity to express concerns and have questions answered. Residents of our community deserve nothing less than the most stringent and thorough review of the potential environmental and public health impacts of this proposed facility before it is approved to move forward.

As always, thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



FREDERICK J. AKSHAR II
New York State Senator
52nd District



DANIEL J. REYNOLDS
Chairman, Broome County Legislature
5th District



MATTHEW J. PASQUALE
Broome County Legislator
7th District



GREG W. BALDWIN
Broome County Legislator
6th District

cc: Hon. Andrew Cuomo
New York State Governor

Dr. Howard Zucker, Commissioner
New York State Department of Health