

In lak'ech ala k'in "The light in me honors the light in you",

My title is Pomaj-chakmam-yajalaji I am the Chief of Medicine, Land Stewardship and Management for The Iroquois Confederacy of Nation Aborigine American People and Minko Chief descendant of The Onkwehonwe Tuscarora Nation of Aborigine American People "and excluding Indians not taxed" Article 1, Section 2, Clause 3 of The United States Constitution, The Delaware Treaty of 1787

I am a Matriarch of my people and I am in The Delaware Territory aka Pittsburgh Pennsylvania and as an Aborigine American Indian not taxed in this territory my people are in close proximity to two Steel Companies namely The US Steel Cokes Works occupying Clairton Pennsylvania and US Steel's Edgar Thomson Mill also known as ET.

I am writing this to urge you to pass House Bill 109.

ET occupies land in four municipalities - Braddock, North Braddock, East Pittsburgh, and North Versailles and sits on the banks of the Monongahela River and Turtle Creek.

These companies are systematically polluting our air and water and have experienced several fires which have affected our air quality and water systems.

ET and Coke Works has been in operation almost continuously, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for close to 150 years. This equals 1,314,000 hours of harm for the people in the Mon Valley, and air quality in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania for decades.

During the past and present decades our people have suffered from the continuous operation of blast furnaces and steel which causes our air water and our physical bodies to breathe and drink in the black smoke, red smoke, brown smoke, white smoke, lead and other metal particles raining from the skies, high levels of PM 2.5 in the air, benzene, hydrogen sulfide, sulfur dioxide, truck exhaust, and slag deposits that poison the air, water, people, plants, animals, land, and other living things.

Our separate and distinct communities that surround the mill have endured 15 decades of disinvestment resulting in genocide and overt racism, food apartheid, high levels of lead exposure, high asthma rates, high rates of cancer, COPD, heart disease, and high rates of poverty. Our Aboriginal American youth living in Braddock, North Braddock, and East Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh in general have some of the highest rates of asthma and respiratory diseases among autoimmune disorders throughout the territory. There are no grocery stores located in Braddock, North Braddock, or East Pittsburgh or Clairton.

There is extreme blight and many abandoned, condemned, and collapsed houses and commercial buildings and structures that add to the destruction and despair which culminates the worst mental health crisis imaginable.

I implore you to seriously consider what it would take to provide the approximately 3900 households in North Braddock and Braddock and the 5,000+ households and Aboriginal American lineages to protect themselves from the pollution-industrial complex systems which disrupt our daily lives throughout our communities.

Following are some statistics to support our assessment of this situation.

1. Window filters in three windows in each home would cost \$351,000

The Allegheny County Health Department advises residents to not open their windows on bad air quality days in which there are many. Two air filters for each household equals \$1,170,000 .

2. One induction stove per household to decrease the air contaminants in the home to mitigate the high rates of bad air quality days and the infiltration of gasses such as hydrogen sulfide and sulfur dioxide costs \$5,070,000

3. And due to the fact that most residential buildings were built at the end of the 19th century and early 20th century using lead and asbestos full replacement of current homes with new ones equals \$897,000,000

If we add these numbers together the total is: \$903,591,000 to protect communities in two municipalities from US Steel. Imagine how great that number is if you include the 20 other frontline municipalities that live adjacent to Mon Valley Works facilities.

I implore the elected representatives of the state of Pennsylvania to prioritize Indigenous peoples rights to a clean and healthy environment providing optimal health and safety of our people and our seven span generations and the lives of all citizens and community members living in these 22 Mon Valley communities by passing House Bill 109 so that our future generations will have a healthier environment and better future ending the days of living in a sacrifice zone.

Honor both your and our ancestors commitment to protect our lands air and waters for all of the people upon our ancestral lands to live in a perpetual peace and friendship as outlined in the Constitution it's Treaty Clause and Commerce Clause outlining our people's Government to Government relationship with Congress and your ancestors. Honor Article 1, Section 2, Clause 3, and Article 2, Section 2, Clause 2 of The United States Constitution and House Congress Resolution 331, 100th Congress 2nd Session, The Delaware Treaty of 1778, and The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 The United Nations Declaration on The Rights of Indigenous People, The American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the many other maxims of law that protect the rights of the Aborigine American Indians not taxed.

With much gratitude, I leave you with the words of Supreme Court Justice The Honorable Judge Scalia

“Judge Scalia on The Role of Supreme Court Justices Under the Constitution

You take the same oath that I take the only reason I can look at a federal statute is I have to say that I have to disregard this because it doesn't comport with the Constitution is that I've taken an oath to the constitution; you've taken the same oath and we give deference to the legislation on the assumption that the members of the senate and the house have tried to be faithful to their oath and indeed if their not even looking at the constitutionality of it that presumption should not exist

I think you have to make your own decision about the constitutionality of it.

In normal times you follow what the Supreme Court has said; we don't strike down any of your laws, we just ignore them, some say Supreme Court struck, we never strike down your laws, where your laws do not comport with the constitution where it seems to be a law but really isn't and so we ignore it and apply the rest of the law the statute notwithstanding as one of our early cases brought in, but it's you, you have the first cut and the most important cut."

Chief Pomaj-chakmam-yajalaji