

Hello,

I am a 58 year old married Latinx female living in North Braddock, Pennsylvania less than 1 mile from 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. It 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.

The 15 decades of continuous operation of blast furnaces and steel making results in 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.

The communities that surround the mill have endured 15 decades of disinvestment resulting in overt racism, loss of all schools, food apartheid, high levels of lead exposure, high asthma rates, high rates of cancer, COPD, heart disease, and high rates of poverty. Youth living in Braddock, North Braddock, and East Pittsburgh do not have any schools in their municipalities. There are no grocery stores located in Braddock, North Braddock, or East Pittsburgh.

Each year more homes are abandoned, condemned, and collapse.

I would like you to consider what it would take to provide the approximately 3900 households in North Braddock and Braddock to protect themselves from the pollution-industrial complex in which we live.

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 urge the elected representatives of the state of Pennsylvania to prioritize the health and safety of my life and the lives of community members living in these 22 Mon Valley communities by passing House Bill 109 so that our days of living in a sacrifice zone are over.

Sincerely,
Edith Abeyta
1527 Wolfe Avenue
Braddock, PA 15104