

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

September 27, 2017

Mr. Frederick A. Henderson  
Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of SunCoke Energy  
1011 Warrenville Road, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Lisle, IL 60532

Dear Mr. Henderson:

I am writing to express my concerns about air pollution emitted from your Indiana Harbor coke-making facility in East Chicago, Indiana. I would like to inquire specifically what your company is doing to address the numerous complaints and citations from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and how these efforts can be strengthened to better protect the public.

The Chicago Tribune and others have published articles highlighting Suncoke Energy's Indiana Harbor coke-making facility's violations and contributions to Chicago's air pollution. Indiana Harbor has been cited by the EPA six times since 2010 for violations including high levels of sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, and lead.

Exposure to particulate matter 10 micrometers or less has been associated with respiratory and cardiovascular problems including cardiovascular disease, asthma complications, chronic bronchitis, decreased lung function, and increased risk of heart attack.<sup>1</sup> Lead is a potent toxin that adversely effects the nervous system, immune system, reproductive system, blood levels, and cognition.<sup>2</sup>

It is clear that these emissions violations can lead to serious health and environmental problems for the immediate East Chicago neighborhood, as well as surrounding communities in both Indiana and Illinois. Therefore, I urge SunCoke Energy to control these emissions from the Indiana Harbor coke-making facility.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator

<sup>1</sup>United States Environmental Protection Agency, *Integrated Science Assessment for Particulate Matter* (December, 2009) accessed at [https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si\\_public\\_record\\_report.cfm?dirEntryId=216546](https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?dirEntryId=216546).

<sup>2</sup>United States Environmental Protection Agency, *Integrated Science Assessment for Lead* (July 2013) accessed at <https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/isa/recordisplay.cfm?deid=255721>.