

To the Honorable

I am writing to express my concern and outrage over continued chemical outfall exceedances along the shores of Lake Michigan by area industry.

This season alone US Steel and Arcelor Mittal have had several chemical spills. One cyanide and ammonia spill from Arcelor Mittal was detected but unreported for 4 days, killing thousands of fish while residents along the coast continued to recreate in the contaminated water. The danger posed by these violations also resulted in shutdowns of a major public drinking water intake. US Steel and IDEM negotiated a weak settlement regarding a hexavalent chromium spill last year only to lead to another hexavalent chromium spill just last month in spite of ongoing litigation!

Beverly Shores is a designated Bird Town Indiana by the Indiana Audubon Society and our community is completely surrounded by our newest Hoosier jewel, the Indiana Dunes National Park. Our most precious resource economically and physically is our tremendous natural habitat: plants, fish and migrating wildlife are abundant and thrive here. We are one of the few spots in the Midwest that can boast of these natural riches; truly a national treasure we want to ensure exists in good health for generations to come.

I am tired of warnings and measly fines as toxic spills continue regardless of the impact on the community. I have the right to drink, bathe and recreate in unpolluted water notwithstanding the apparent indifference of industry AND the Indiana Department of Environmental Management ("IDEM"). It is time for my elected officials to do their job!

I realize that the mills are my neighbors and we need to live and work together. But they have not been holding up their end of the bargain and are in fact putting my family at risk. I urge you to provide more scrutiny and direction to IDEM, including legislation where necessary, to ensure all Indiana residents have the clean water we deserve.

Sincerely,

