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The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Thomas Price
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

May 11, 2017

Administrator Pruitt and Secretary Price:

It is with great urgency that I ask the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide to the Southern California Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) all the necessary resources to quickly and effectively conduct special air monitoring efforts in the Compton area for the carcinogen hexavalent chromium or chromium 6. I also urge the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide health assessments for chromium 6 and other toxins to the residents of Compton and nearby communities.

After many complaints in 2016, the SCAQMD monitored the air and found that hexavalent chromium levels from metal plating facilities in Paramount, CA were 350 times the allowable limit. As a result, the SCAQMD has identified similar clusters of metal plating facilities in an attempt to proactively identify unacceptable levels of chromium 6, especially near vulnerable populations such as children, the sick and the elderly. The SCAQMD has decided to conduct special air monitoring in Compton and nearby communities because of the high concentration of metal plating facilities near vulnerable populations.

My hope is that regulators do not find any chromium 6 levels but if they do, that toxin levels are as low as possible. Regulators need to ensure that they make the best possible effort to correctly conduct this special air monitoring.

I urge the U.S. EPA and U.S. HHS to provide their financial resources, personnel and technical know-how to the SCAQMD in order to identify whether or not my constituents' lives are at risk.

Sincerely,

Nanette Diaz Barragán
U.S. Representative
California's 44th Congressional District