Gwen Fleming-Keyes, Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Dear Administrator Keyes,

I am sending this personal message to plead with you as a community leader, a mom and grandmother.  These last few days we have listened with horror of the senseless deaths of 20 children, and another seven adults in Connecticut.  I and the nation are saddened and we mourn alongside the children’s parents, families, and the community stricken.

I have been reflecting upon the President’s words tonight, and some of the things he said. The love of a parent for their children is unconditional, we try to protect them always and yet there are simply times when we cannot.  He said that after you have a child, your heart is placed outside of your body and is in that child walking around.
We are parents who simply want the very best for our children.  We go out and work long hard hours like most Americans so that we can provide for them the very best that we can. Things including housing, clean water, and healthy food for our children to eat. Our children are our most precious commodity, our nation’s future.

The health of my 8-year-old granddaughter, Bryanna, the love of my life, is being threatened by constant exposure to soot from a coal ash landfill located near my home. The ash falls thick everywhere, on my home, autos, the soil. I don’t know what this heavy metal exposure will do to my granddaughter short-term; I lie awake at night wondering and worrying what these small soot micro-fibers lodged in her lungs will do to her long term.  Will she have a future?  Will she grow old?  This is my anxiety and that of most others in our community.

The landfill is on the campus with one of the oldest and filthiest power plants – LG&E Cane Run in Louisville, Kentucky, which is within 150 yards from our home.  In my neighborhood, we have children with immune system disorders, rare cancers, asthma and other illnesses.

The science is there for all to see. There is no doubt that more stringent regulation is necessary. It is incomprehensible that my granddaughter could be a sacrificial lamb to corporate greed.  My family stands back and we look in utter horror as most people turn their heads and ignore what is happening to us.  Ignoring this environmental injustice is morally wrong.

In the state of Kentucky our politicians are highly protective of the coal companies and not so much with the health of their constituents, like my family and I, living adjacent to coal ash facilities.

So we continue to speak out in hopes that you, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, will pass regulation to protect our children.

There are many coal lobbyists in Washington who try to hide the truth and many congressmen and senators who use scare tactics on the masses to blur the facts and their true agenda.  Profit and corporate greed should never come before the health of children.

I had every intention of traveling to Atlanta with the group that is now there before you to plead for more regulation of coal ash. I was unable to be there in person but please be assured we are waiting with bated breath for you to take action.

The Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District is issuing Notice of Violations to the facility via local ordinances which lack any punch; however, that it all that they have.  Please provide regulation needed to truly protect us from this unrelenting pollution.
Ms. Keyes, I urge you and your staff to visit my home, meet my grandchild and many other children in our community to witness for yourself what unhealthy circumstances we have been made to endure.

When you arrive, you will find we are surrounded by several dirty power plants with coal ash impoundments in the United States.  The cycle of coal brings nothing but misery to those who do not have a voice.  Please give us a voice.

I look forward to your response.

Kathy Little
Cane Run Community Leader

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