

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

There is a silent crisis and catastrophe waiting to happen in Southern California. More than a million people live with the threat of a large Hydrofluoric Acid (HF) release from two outdated and negligent petroleum refineries located in high density communities with high environmental justice burdens. These two recalcitrant refineries in our state refuse to put public safety before corporate profits. There are vastly safer alternatives.

I write urge you to direct Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael S. Regan, to formulate a rule requiring the immediate conversion process of HF refineries to one of the multiple commercially proven, vastly safer alternatives that most US refineries uses.

As you may be aware, your home office is approximately 11 miles from the HF tank at the Trainer refinery containing over 200,000 lbs. of HF. According to the refinery, the endpoint for death or permanent injury from a release of this chemical is 17 miles, so you and your wife Jill, when home, are well within that "Circle of Risk."

I, along with over 1.1 million Angelinos, also live within the "Circle of Risk" near our own HF refineries. There have been many near misses for mass casualties at HF refineries, most notably in our community of Torrance CA, Superior WI, and also near your home at the now destroyed Philadelphia refinery.

A large release, as nearly happened eight years ago this week, from the Torrance Refinery could cause massive casualties, extreme disruption of the US energy supply and possibly impact the national security as large critical workforces live and work within the circles of the 41 refineries still using HF in our country. Refineries are vulnerable to accidents, natural disasters and even terrorist attacks.

Most of the communities living near HF refineries score high on the EPA environmental justice burden index. Only by requiring these refineries to transition to a safer alternative can your family and mine be protected against this preventable catastrophe

Please direct the EPA to take urgent action to require conversion away from HF.

Sincerely,

Please Copy: Brenda Malloy
Chair of Council for Environmental Quality