



May 15, 2017

Mr. David Burritt, President and Chief Operating Officer
United States Steel Corporation
600 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

Mr. Mario Longhi, Chief Executive Officer
United States Steel Corporation
600 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

Mr. Joseph E. Hanning, Director of Environmental Control
United States Steel Corporation – Gary Works, Midwest Plant
One North Broadway, MS 70-A
Gary, IN 46402

Dear Mr. Burritt, Mr. Longhi, and Mr. Hanning:

As the Board of Directors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, we are writing to express our deep concern over the release of hexavalent chromium into Burns Waterway and the Lake from your facility at Portage, Indiana, and the reopening of those facilities less than a week after the incident. We urge you to take steps to prevent future incidents and protect the health of our communities and the integrity of the Lake. With looming cuts in the federal funding that protects our region's waterways, it is imperative upon you to ensure events like this must not happen again.

As elected officials, our constituents depend on us to be forthright and transparent regarding any threats to public health and safety, especially when related to drinking water. We were not able to do that in this situation because we did not have sufficient information from U.S. Steel about the hexavalent chromium spill in a timely manner. Following the recent spill at your Portage facilities, U.S. Steel needs to prepare a report and release it to the public providing details of the cause of the release, magnitude of the discharge, environmental impacts of the incident, and what steps have been taken to prevent events like this in the future.

On April 14, while soil and water testing was ongoing by numerous governmental agencies, you chose to reopen the Portage facility. Instead of hastily restarting production, U.S. Steel should have provided more information about what has been done to ensure future incidents will not occur, such as an independent review of facility operations and emergency response procedures. In addition, U.S. Steel needs to implement robust safety and emergency preparedness measures to respond to possible future incidents. Rigorous water quality and discharge monitoring are essential to improve awareness of

potential problems and responsiveness if an incident occurs. These are necessary to protect the Great Lakes and the people who rely on them for drinking water and recreation.

In addition, the spill of hexavalent chromium by U.S. Steel is one of many examples of why we need a strong presence from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Chicago and the Great Lakes region as a whole to work with states and local governments to discourage and respond to incidents like this. The role Region 5 staff plays in these incidents is critical for the protection of our residents and we hope you will voice your support for the role they play in bringing parties together. The Great Lakes need the federal government to protect and restore this priceless freshwater resource.

Thank you for addressing our concerns and we look forward to receiving a timely response to our request. If you have any questions, please contact David Ullrich, Executive Director of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative at 312-480-6501 or david.ullrich@glslcities.org.

Sincerely,



Denis Coderre
Mayor, City of Montréal, Québec
On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



Rahm Emanuel
Mayor, City of Chicago, Illinois

Karen Freeman-Wilson
Mayor, City of Gary, Indiana

Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Paul Dyster
Mayor, City of Niagara Falls, New York

Sandra Cooper
Town of Collingwood, Ontario

John Dickert
Mayor, City of Racine, Wisconsin

Mitch Twolan
Mayor, Township of Huron-Kinloss, Ontario

Keith Hobbs
Mayor, City of Thunder Bay, Ontario

Régis Labeaume
President, Québec Metropolitan Community, Québec

Denis Lapointe
Mayor, City of Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Québec

Walter Sendzik
Mayor, City of St. Catharines, Ontario

Joseph Sinnott
Mayor, City of Erie, Pennsylvania

Randy Hope
Mayor, City of Chatham-Kent, Ontario

Emily Larson
Mayor, City of Duluth, Minnesota

Jim Carruthers
Mayor, City of Traverse City, Michigan

Cc: The Honorable Eric Holcomb, Governor of Indiana
Robert Kaplan, Acting Regional Administrator, Region 5 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency