

May 8, 2012

Mr. Bowie,

First I'd like to thank you for your time. I feel that anytime we all get to sit at the table and exchange ideas everyone wins. This is the true spirit of environmental justice. I look forward to the future and for the opportunity to keep the dialogue moving in the right direction. The City of Brockton has been in desperate need of an advocate such as yourself and we are thankful that Governor Patrick has filled this void in the Commonwealth with you. The learning curve is steep however the opportunity to educate, inform, and support the hardest hit communities in the Commonwealth such as Brockton is ripe and you certainly seem as if you are up to task.

The clock continues to tick. We met with Secretary Sullivan last year; he expressed concern about the city and informed us of better means of wastewater sewage removal, he seemed dismayed that Brockton was burning the waste over the heads of its residents. Westfield, the city where Mr. Sullivan was mayor should be sited as an example of a city using better, newer technology at their wastewater treatment facility, pellet removal by truck.

You presented to us that the wastewater treatment facility in Brockton had an upgrade. That upgrade was forced based on a lawsuit between a resident and the city. The city could not treat the influx of overflow so they were depositing raw sewage into a river. You also sited adjustments made to the scrubber in the stack. None of these points address the issue of our 30-year-old incinerator that is still burning this waste over our heads. The concerns of Secretary Sullivan have not been addressed.

I also hope that you have had a chance to review the readings of 30 tons of PM2.5 per month. They are enclosed. You mentioned a reading of 6 tons per month, there seems to be a discrepancy here.

In respect to the pollution meters, I feel I should reiterate that we are seeking the best available, comprehensive pollution control monitoring equipment for Brockton. There are 100,000 people in the City of Brockton, many of whom do not speak English and many of whom are well below the poverty threshold. Brockton fits all four criteria for Environmental Justice. These residents do not understand how the high levels of pollution and the already overburdened condition of the city are negatively impacting their lives. We need to work together to change the course in Brockton; we are in the fourth quarter here.

The group felt yesterday that we did not get a genuine answer from you on the pollution meters. Your comment that we have a readily available meter with real time data that is published online has yet to be seen or proven useful. You also mentioned that cities such as Worcester and New Bedford did not have similar

monitoring equipment that we are looking for therefore Brockton likely is not a priority. This sentiment holds no weight with our group and as an advocate for Brockton I refuse to hold our city to such a low standard. I am only pursuant of Brockton's best interests and I will not hold Brockton to the standards of these other communities.

It does not appear that the residents of Brockton can lean on the current administration of Mayor Linda Balzotti to advocate on their behalf, as she was absent from the initial meeting with Secretary Sullivan and has not been a part of this dialogue. This is why our group of advocates and the State Representatives have turned to you. You have been thrust into a position of great responsibility and importance. It is also worth noting Mr. Bowie, that the Energy Facility Siting Board is looking to you for guidance, enclosed you will find relevant clips.

I want you to know that we will work diligently with you to protect the residents of Brockton. I greatly appreciate your time, however I do not want to give the residents of Brockton false hope. At our meeting you mentioned many things that can be done and you mentioned many things that cannot be done. I believe the first thing that we need to focus on together is what can be done and that is to fight vigorously for Environmental Justice and to monitor the quality of air that the residents of Brockton are breathing in. These pollutants need to be measured comprehensively and accurately in real time in ways that they are not subject to interpretation and tampering. Then and only then can we begin to continue much of the great work that you proposed at our meeting.

Sincerely,

Ed Byers