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Assembly
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HOMELESSNESS

June 3, 2022

Wayne Nastri
Executive Director, South Coast AQMD
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Dear Mr. Nastri:

I write to urge South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) to immediately shut down Sterigenics International, Inc. (Sterigenics) in Vernon, California and investigate their operations that have put worker and community health at risk. South Coast AQMD must take increased measures to protect community health that may be impacted by illegal operations at these facilities. I have also urged the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) to shut down the Sterigenics facilities.

The communities I represent in the 53rd Assembly District are disproportionately impacted by air pollution, including harmful toxic emissions from businesses that fail to comply with environmental rules and regulations. I have received numerous complaints from my constituents expressing their concern that the operations at the Sterigenics facilities in Vernon endanger the well-being of their workers and nearby communities.

South Coast AQMD must require Sterigenics to immediately cease operations until their facilities no longer pose harm to workers and our communities. I understand that EtO emissions are escaping the air pollution control equipment and are flowing into the company's building and outside to the nearby industrial area, causing potential increased exposure for both Sterigenics's employees, off-site workers, and surrounding communities. The elevated levels of EtO are absolutely unacceptable as it can cause irritation to the eyes and respiratory system, as well as headaches, weakness, nausea, vomiting, difficulty breathing, and other impacts. Long-term exposure to EtO increases the risk of certain cancers, including lymphoid and breast cancer.

We must work together to take increased action to prevent further harm to our communities. I look forward to working with South Coast AQMD, Cal/OSHA, community members, and other agencies to protect the health of the workers and surrounding communities. If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (916) 319-2053.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miguel Santiago". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MIGUEL SANTIAGO
Assembly Member, 53rd District