

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 10, 2021

The Honorable Michael Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Administrator Regan:

We write to discuss the next steps necessary to assist Commonfields of Cahokia Public Water District in returning to compliance with the Clean Water Act. On April 30, 2021, EPA issued a notice of potential violation letter to the Commonfields of Cahokia Public Water District after EPA inspectors observed sanitary sewer overflows and serious operations-and-maintenance deficiencies of the sanitary sewer systems. After years of the citizens of this district suffering as a result of this dilapidated system, we want to ensure that any opportunities that exist to help the Commonfields of Cahokia Public Water District with funding sources and technical assistance in order to come into compliance are promptly identified and utilized.

It is important that EPA take into account that the residents of Centreville, Alorton and Cahokia recently voted to consolidate into one municipality called Cahokia Heights. The residents also approved dissolving the sewer utility Commonfields of Cahokia, putting the new Cahokia Heights sewer department in charge of the utility. It is our understanding that the new city of Cahokia Heights was officially founded on May 6, 2021, and that it has agreed to assume all past liabilities of Commonfields of Cahokia Public Water District and all future efforts to help these systems achieve compliance. Therefore, we would also appreciate EPA's full consideration of the newly formed municipal government's current needs and capabilities as you review compliance options.

We understand that if EPA ultimately determines that Commonfields Public Water District was not in compliance with applicable requirements, EPA will consider enforcement options available under the Clean Water Act, which could include the issuance of an administrative compliance order, issuance of an administrative penalty order and pursuing a judicial civil or criminal action. It is our hope that while EPA considers these enforcement options, every effort to avoid further financial burden and suffering being passed to the residents of Cahokia Heights be taken. We strongly support frequent and robust community engagement throughout this process to ensure that the identified solutions assist in meeting the needs of the residents.

In EPA's process of identifying and assisting Cahokia Heights with funding options, technical assistance or pursuance of compliance methods please free to use our staff as a resource to assist in any way possible.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator