

TAMMY DUCKWORTH

ILLINOIS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1309

January 24, 2019

Dr. James L. Discipio
447 North Catherine Avenue
La Grange Park, IL 60526-2006

Dear Dr. Discipio,

Thank you for contacting me to share your views on ethylene oxide (EtO) emissions from the Sterigenics facility based in Willowbrook, Illinois. I appreciate you taking the time to make me aware of your concerns on this important matter.

On August 21, 2018, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) released a report concluding that EtO emissions from Sterigenics pose a public health threat to the surrounding community of Willowbrook. This report found there is an increased cancer risk in the community. This finding was consistent with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decision to characterize EtO as a known carcinogen.

I am deeply concerned that the EPA and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration have not updated their respective public health protections to reflect EPA's most up-to-date scientific findings for EtO. That is why I joined Senator Dick Durbin and Representative Bill Foster of Illinois' 11th Congressional District in conducting oversight of Sterigenics and EPA. [Our series of requests](#) call on EPA and Sterigenics to take necessary steps to protect the community's public health. We also asked EPA and Sterigenics to transparently publish data on EtO and urged EPA to conduct a broader health assessment.

As your Senator, I am alarmed that residents near the Sterigenics facility have the second highest risk of cancer in the country. While the facility took an important first step by installing additional pollution controls, far more must be done to protect the Willowbrook community. Rest assured, I am committed to maintaining pressure and conducting further oversight of the EPA and Sterigenics to ensure the community is no longer at risk.

Thank you again for contacting me on this important issue. If you would like more information on my work in the Senate, please visit my website at www.duckworth.senate.gov. You can find upcoming events in the state, sign up for my newsletter, access my voting record and see what I am doing to address today's most important issues. I hope that you will continue to share your views and opinions with me and let me know whenever I may be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

RECEIVED FEB 10 2019