Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 24, 2023

Michael S. Regan
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan,

New concerns have arisen regarding the safety of the Lowry Landfill Superfund Site (LLSS) over the possibility that proposed oil and gas development in the Lowry Ranch Comprehensive Area Plan (CAP) might disrupt the site and infrastructure in the area. LLSS is located on 507 acres in my congressional district, just east of the City of Aurora. It was identified as one of the country's most contaminated toxic waste sites; and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) placed it on the agency's National Priorities List in 1984.

An estimated 138 million gallons of industrial waste was dumped at the site, and numerous toxic materials are present, including: asbestos, heavy metals, hazardous chemicals, volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, and methane. The investigation, containment, and cleanup of LLSS has been underway for decades to protect the public from the toxic material that was dumped into over 70 unlined trenches and elsewhere at the site. Several remedies have been conducted with EPA oversight to contain the contamination including covering of the landfill; removal of some waste pits; installation of a surface water barrier; removal and treatment of landfill gas; and groundwater extraction and treatment systems.

Despite these steps, the site lacks a protective under-lining, and extensive contamination still rests above the expansive Denver Basin Aquifer system, which – according to the U.S. Geological Survey – is "a critical water resource for growing municipal, industrial, and domestic uses along the semiarid Front Range urban corridor of Colorado." Residents, community groups, and environmental organizations have raised serious concerns regarding the safety of the LLSS and the possibility that proposed gas and oil development in the Lowry Ranch Comprehensive Area Plan (CAP) has the potential to degrade the subsurface bedrock.

Local community members remain concerned over potentially hazardous exposure through water contamination and airborne particles. My office has further heard specific concerns regarding the inadequacy of the seismic buffer zone required to safeguard the LLSS and its plume, the safety of the Aurora Reservoir Dam and the reservoir itself, and the impact of the CAP on compliance with EPA environmental standards and exposure to hazardous pollutants.

EPA is charged with protecting human health and the environment. The EPA must disclose to the public any information relevant to the future safety of the site that could lead to contamination of water sources or public exposure to toxic material, and the agency should not delay in meeting with the public regarding any safety concerns.

I ask the EPA's response to the following questions:

1. **What steps is the EPA taking to engage more closely with the public and to ensure full transparency regarding the safety of the site?**
2. **What steps is the EPA taking to investigate newly raised concerns related to the safety of the LLSS?**
3. **How is the EPA coordinating its efforts with the state, local officials and regulatory agencies, including the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)?**

I request your urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jason Crow
Member of Congress