

July 10, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
2988 Jackson Federal Building
915 2nd Avenue
Seattle, WA 98174

Senator Murray,

We are reaching out regarding environmental issues that are migrating onto and impacting one of our properties and its tenant, CHI Franciscan, at 4550 Fauntleroy Way SW in West Seattle. We have owned and operated this property for over forty years, and other properties in West Seattle for over seventy years. We are hoping your office may be able to provide assistance with this ongoing issue.

By way of background, the 4550 Fauntleroy Way SW property is located directly adjacent to a former and current gasoline service station located at 4580 Fauntleroy Way SE. The adjacent property is known as the West Seattle ARCO Site and has been subject to ongoing investigation and cleanup activities for the last 30+ years.

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/11357#site-documents> The petroleum-based contamination originating on and from the ARCO Site has migrated onto and is currently impacting conditions beneath the Franciscan property.

We have been proactive in addressing the contamination originating from the neighboring property. Working closely with CHI Franciscan, who has maintained an Urgent Care and Women's Health Clinic on the property since 2011, we have actively investigated conditions to ensure that no contamination could cause any adverse impacts to the medical staff and their patients. Those evaluation efforts led to the implementation of a vapor mitigation system designed to ensure that no medical staff or patients could be exposed to any vapors or odors from the petroleum contamination originating from the ARCO Site.

We have tried to engage with British Petroleum (BP), the owners of the ARCO Site, to expedite the cleanup process and to ensure that the Franciscan property is remediated in a manner that protects the health and safety of tenants and guests. Unfortunately, instead of taking steps to expedite and complete their cleanup obligations, BP has deflected and obfuscated regarding their legal obligations, even accusing our property of contributing to the detected contamination.

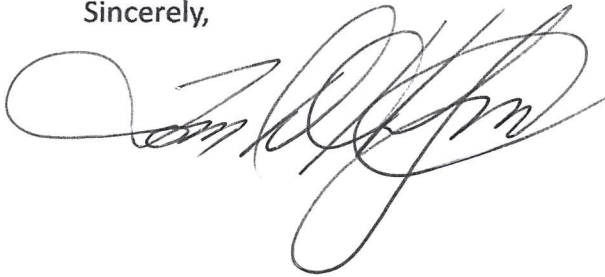
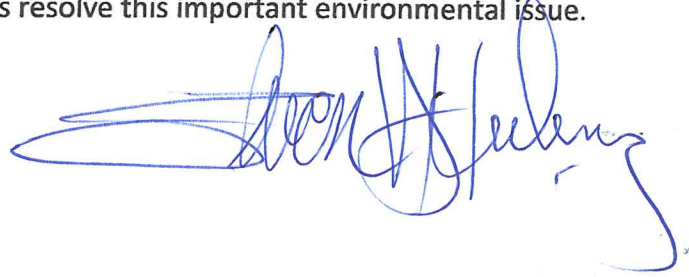
BP's accusations, although baseless, have led the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) to list our property as its own separate cleanup site. Despite having no evidence of any release of contamination, DOE's decision will allow BP to continue its deny and delay tactics, while forcing us to undertake additional remedial activities to address contamination that is neither our fault

nor our responsibility. To be clear, the property in question was never utilized for a purpose that would result in the contamination currently seen.

We have asked DOE to rescind its decision to list our property as an independent cleanup site, but we have not received any response from Ecology for over 60 days. Understanding that this is a state issue and there may be limits to your office's ability to help, we respectfully request any assistance that you and your office may be able to provide in our continuing quest to have DOE remove our property as an independent cleanup site.

We deeply appreciate any efforts to help us resolve this important environmental issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tom R. [unclear]', written in a cursive style.A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Don H. [unclear]', written in a cursive style.