

Governor Phil Murphy
Office of Governor
P.O. Box 001
Trenton NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy,

Over the past year, the residents of Kearny, NJ and surrounding communities have been SUFFERING as a result of noxious hydrogen sulfide odors emanating from the Keegan Landfill, which is owned and operated by the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority (NJSEA). The rotten egg odor has become a regular occurrence, permeating through town on a daily basis and it's having a **DETRIMENTAL IMPACT ON THE HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE** of our residents. Many are complaining of headaches, nausea and there are raised worries about difficulty breathing due to the odors. Residents are unable to open their windows; they are unable to enjoy their properties and children cannot play in their own backyards. It has become an unbearable situation.

The landfill poses a serious health concern to the community of Kearny as it is less than 1,000 feet from residences and only 1/4 mile from Franklin Elementary School which serves over 1,000 children in grades K to 6. The landfill is also near a municipal outdoor soccer facility known as Harvey Field, which is one of the most active recreational fields in our community.

The NJSEA has been issued multiple violations by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and openly admitted to being less than vigilant in what is being dumped at the landfill. They acknowledged they have not put controls in place to prevent the disaster that has devastated our town, affecting not only the health and well-being of our residents, but also causing serious environmental harm. The Town of Kearny has had to take matters into our own hands and purchased its own equipment to monitor our air quality and there are regular readings of elevated hydrogen sulfide. The town will be forced to close recreational fields when air quality deteriorates, leaving hundreds of kids with nowhere to play sports. Our children deserve better than this, Governor Murphy.

We deserve to breathe clean air and to raise our families in a safe and healthy environment. In 2005, the State of NJ promised the residents of Kearny that the landfill would be re-opened for only 5 years in order to cap it and, after the cap is completed, create recreational fields and an area where our children can play and enjoy the outdoors; instead we are now forced to accept a growing mountain of toxic waste that will most certainly make us sick. Landfills do not belong near our communities and the State's continued ownership and operation of the Keegan Landfill poses a public health and environmental emergency. The residents of Kearny and surrounding communities have been pleading with you to shut down this landfill, yet you continue to permit the operation of this landfill. **Governor Murphy, close the Keegan Landfill immediately and install an impermeable cover and gas collection system to eliminate hydrogen sulfide emissions! Our community was misled by the State of NJ. What is being done to the residents of our community is a GREAT INJUSTICE and MUST END NOW!**

Sincerely,