

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

Dear Governor Murphy,

The residents of Kearny, NJ and surrounding communities continue to suffer as a result of noxious hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) gasses emanating from the Keegan Landfill, which is owned and operated by the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority (NJSEA). Those emissions, which have a noxious rotten egg odor, have become a regular occurrence, permeating through town on a frequent basis and causing a detrimental impact on the health and quality of life of residents and visitors to the area such as nearby Red Bull Stadium. Many residents are complaining of headaches, nausea and there are concerns about difficulty breathing due to the emissions. Area residents are unable to open their windows on most days; they are unable to enjoy their properties, and their children cannot play in their own backyards.

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. Over the last few months, the Town has been forced to close the field several times, cancelling scheduled games and practices. In each instance the field closure was followed by H₂S exceedances of 30 ppb. This happened most recently on September 16, 2019, when Harvey Field was evacuated in the middle of a game, forcing over 160 children off the field. Why must our children continue to live this way?

The steps taken thus far by the NJDEP do not go far enough to address the issue at hand. The gas collection system was activated on September 5, 2019 but there continues to be regular exceedances of H₂S. A gas collection system without permanent closure **and** an impermeable cap is an incomplete remedy and will subject Kearny residents to continued H₂S exposure.

We deserve to breathe clean air and to raise our families in a safe and healthy environment. We ask that you intervene to protect the health and well-being of our community. The NJDEP is suing a food waste recycling plan in Newark, accusing it of producing noxious smells. Our community is being poisoned by toxic hydrogen sulfide gas; the noxious "rotten egg odor" is just one part of what our community has to endure on a daily basis. Aside from the quality of life issue, we are primarily concerned for the health and well-being of our children, who are likely more susceptible to H₂S exposure, particularly those attending Franklin Elementary School and those playing on Harvey Field just a short distance away from the landfill. Our Superintendent of Schools recently wrote you a letter, urging you to protect our children and Senators Sacco, Stack and Cunningham sponsored resolution SC-180 strongly urging the NJSEA and the NJDEP to take immediate action to close the landfill and install an impermeable cover and gas collection system to eliminate hydrogen sulfide emissions from the landfill. The Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Kearny Board of Education, the Borough of East Newark, Town of Harrison and City of Newark Council also adopted similar resolutions in support of Senator Sacco's proposed bill. And, as you know, just this week the Hudson County Superior Court ruled that the landfill is to remain permanently closed; however, the landfill must also be capped in its entirety with an impermeable cover to eliminate the toxic hydrogen sulfide gas emissions (and noxious odors).

The Town of Kearny seeks the elimination of hydrogen sulfide emissions from the Keegan Landfill. **This can only occur with the installation of a gas collection system and an impermeable synthetic cover over the landfill's surface.** What is being done to our community is a great injustice and must end as soon as possible!

Sincerely,