

May 28, 2021

Dear Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib,

This letter is a formal request on behalf of residents on Beniteau St. on the eastside of Detroit. As you are aware, an FCA (now Stellantis) plant expansion is taking place in our neighborhood within the 13th Congressional District. Is there an opportunity for you to ensure that funding from the planned American Rescue Plan (ARP) can be dedicated to Beniteau impacted residents and similarly impacted residents across the 13th Congressional District within the city of Detroit?

Residents have strong, legitimate concerns about environmental and public health and the damage that this expansion will and has caused. Wayne County, MI is currently out of federal compliance with sulfur dioxide and ozone standards. Prior to Covid-19, 7.3% of annual deaths in Wayne County are due to criteria pollutants and air toxics. 11.3% of our children countywide have asthma, and the numbers are worse in our most polluted neighborhoods near heavy industry. The immediate area surrounding the plant is 94% Black, and FCA/Stellantis have offset increased emissions in our neighborhood by reducing emissions in a plant in a suburban, whiter Warren, MI.

We take air quality, water quality and public health seriously, and we cannot tolerate decisions that place disproportionate environmental burdens on Black Detroiters. Residents are dissatisfied and frustrated about the way our local Community Benefits Ordinance process played out, and also with the way that many elected officials and decision makers have failed to consider the impact of this project for our neighborhood, especially in the face of an unprecedented global pandemic.

As part of the Community Benefits process residents were told that environmental and public health concerns would be reduced through a home repair program. The residents who were able to participate in the program after the many requirements put in place only received \$15,000 per home. This amount of money has not been enough to make our homes safe to live in. The ongoing construction associated with the project has also done more damage to many homes. This needs to be addressed.

We need more money for repairs. We believe that homes need to be assessed individually and that the money needed to complete the work required be updated. We want our foundations repaired, new roofs and windows, central air and furnaces, all certified for air quality. The program also failed to consider and reflect the number of units in multifamily buildings. There are multi-family structures, duplexes, on the street and we want resources for repairs in each unit.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Resident Names Removed from online documentation.