

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMERCE  
HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

August 4, 2022

The Honorable Michael S. Regan  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Regan:

I write to you today regarding the continued need for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect the communities surrounding Greif/Mid-America facilities in Milwaukee, Oak Creek, and St. Francis, Wisconsin, as well as the workers at these plants where hazardous waste has been dumped and transported.

Nearly five years ago, the EPA notified Greif/Mid-America that it was in violation of several federal hazardous waste laws at its Wisconsin facilities—including illegally storing, transporting and treating hazardous waste.<sup>1</sup> Since then, I have received limited communication regarding the status of the violations and subsequent corrective actions taken by the agency. I request that you provide me with an update on EPA's investigation, including any inspection or enforcement action, as well as information regarding the agency's coordination with other state and federal agencies to address the Greif/Mid-America violations.

Workers at these facilities and surrounding communities are not alone in their exposure to environmental hazards from drum reconditioning operations.<sup>2</sup> Across the country, these plants are releasing dangerous chemicals in air and water, repeatedly violating environmental regulations.<sup>3</sup> To address this alarming trend, I ask that the EPA re-evaluate and, if necessary, modify its rules regarding non-empty containers subject to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

EPA has a responsibility to protect workers and neighborhoods through enforcement of existing laws and additional regulatory action. I appreciate your attention to this issue and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/wi/epa-investigating-milwaukee-company-potential-environmental-violations>

<sup>2</sup> <https://projects.jsonline.com/news/2017/2/15/chemicals-left-in-barrels-leave-many-at-risk.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.wwdmag.com/industrial-water-wastes-digest/industrial-water/news/10940436/seattle-barrel-reconditioning-company-owner-convicted-for-10-years-of-water-pollution>