



To: [refinery@phila.gov](mailto:refinery@phila.gov)

September 16, 2019

Dear Members of the Refinery Advisory Group,

We write to you to express thoughts and concerns as members of the Point Breeze Community Development Coalition. We are residents that live close to the refinery site and have experienced its negative effects, both physical and emotional.

Living in Point Breeze, we all know someone who has been impacted by the refinery. Lives have been lost or compromised with health issues. Asthma and other breathing complications are common, along with cancer, heart disease, and skin irritations. Community members have been trying to communicate concerns and learn more about safety for decades, but have been met with the cold shoulder. It's been a challenge to be a neighbor of the refinery and we want things to change.

An ideal situation would be for the land to be used for clean energy. Continuing with energy that pollutes and harms humans should be phased out. If the city can provide tax breaks like the 10 year tax abatement, why not provide tax breaks to support the conversion of the site to clean energy to protect our communities?

If the land will continue to be used for oil, then we ask that the new owners engage with the community in meaningful ways. We'd like open, transparent, and consistent communication regarding safety measures, crisis management, and potential impacts to health. We'd like to see the city provide targeted programming and interventions for neighbors impacted.

In the end, someone is going to pay. Either the city will spend money to incentivize the kind of business in line with our values or provide programming to those who get sick. People will pay with their health care premiums or lives. Or the new owner will pay with union jobs, time, and care to the people who are suffering the consequences of pollution created. It's in the best interest to all of us to minimize those costs.

Sincerely,

Point Breeze Community Development Coalition Board Members