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Belfast, ME 04915

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Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator,
United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20460

I join Louisiana residents, workers and families in their call for a safer alternative to open burning of hazardous wastes at Camp Minden.

We oppose the plan by the United States Environmental Protection Agency to OPEN BURN 15 million pounds of abandoned M6 propellants at Camp Minden, Louisiana. By definition, open burning has no emissions controls and will result in the uncontrolled release of toxic emissions and respirable particulates to the environment. M6 contains approximately 10 percent dinitrotoluene (DNT) which is classified as a probable human carcinogen.

Concerns for the potential human health risk created by open burning/open detonation as well as for environmental impacts on the air, soil, and water have required the military to identify and develop alternatives to open burning/open detonation treatment. Moreover, as the United States Environmental Protection Agency's plan provides for the safe handling and transport to an open burning area, these wastes could be similarly moved to an alternative treatment facility or system.

While I support the United States Environmental Protection Agency's initiative to require the United States Army to clean up and dispose of these improperly stored explosive wastes, I do not support open burning as a remedy given the inherent and avoidable risks to human health and the environment.

Most urgently,

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