

Respected Board Members, Director Paylor.

My name is (b) (6) Privacy, (b) (7)(C) Personal Privacy. I have asked Ms. Sims to read the comments I planned to provide to the Board today. Unfortunately, a serious family health matter does not allow for me to join you in person.

I am addressing you in my capacity as the (b) (6) Privacy, (b) (7)(C) Personal Privacy. I am honored to have been asked by our leadership to serve in this capacity.

Over the last few weeks, it has come to light that there are between four and five 2.5 Megawatt emergency generators planned for the proposed Wegmans Distribution Center – for a total of 10-12.5 megawatts of production. As many may be aware, this large industrial facility is proposed to be located in the heart of the Brown Grove community. Brown Grove was established by freed people and shares many characteristics with the Union Hill community. However, unlike Union Hill, Brown Grove has suffered over 60 years of government sponsored environmental injustice. The community has been impacted by the development of Interstate 95, the Hanover County Municipal Airport, numerous industrial complexes, and a construction debris landfill.

As of a few weeks ago, we learned there has been no attempt by Wegmans to pursue an Air permit for these proposed diesel-powered emergency generators. Nor are there any known plans for fuel storage and spill control practices. We do not know if DEQ, the EPA or the US Army Corps of Engineers were even aware of these generators until recently.

It is unlikely emergency generators are an afterthought for such a large industrial complex. One has to ask, “Why are these only coming to light after the Army Corps has claimed to complete a NEPA Environmental Assessment without input from sovereign indigenous tribes and federal, state, and local government agencies as required by federal law?”

The (b) (6) Privacy, (b) (7)(C) Personal Privacy requests that the Air Board immediately direct DEQ Director Paylor and his staff to review the proposed emergency generators, any onsite fuel storage, and begin the process for a comprehensive and cumulative environmental justice study regarding the negative impacts to the Brown Grove community. We request this be done immediately as Wegmans has indicated it plans to begin construction as soon as possible. We take the position that this industrial facility – which has no industrial permit and was presented in the Coastal Zone Management Act review process as not being industrial in nature – must have all applicable permits before any local site plans are completed.

I thank you for your consideration of this request. My colleague (b) (6) Privacy, (b) (7)(C) Personal Privacy who also plans to speak on this matter should be able to address any immediate questions should you have them.