



## MEDIA RELEASE

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**Groups Send Letters to Federal Policymakers:  
Reduce Government Spending for Superfund's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Restore "Polluter Pays" Fees for Toxic Waste Site Cleanup Program**

***The Citizens For A Clean Pompton Lakes Ask Senators Frank Lautenberg, Robert Menendez and Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. to Support Corporate Superfund "Birthday Cupcake" Fee***

Pompton Lakes, NJ: Citizens for a Clean Pompton Lakes delivered a letter to Senator Frank Lautenberg, Senator Robert Menendez, and Congressional Representative Bill Pascrell, Jr. for Superfund's upcoming 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. ***The letter asked federal policymakers to give Superfund a gift by reducing government spending and reinstating "polluter pays" fees for the financially ailing federal toxic waste site cleanup program. One of the fees, the Corporate Environmental Income Tax, paid by companies with \$2 million or more in profits was \$12 on every \$10,000 in profits—or the price of a few birthday cupcakes. Citizens For A Clean Pompton Lakes is demanding the Environmental Protection Agency become more involved and give its undivided attention to the DuPont contamination site and our contaminated neighborhoods in Pompton Lakes, NJ. As requested by a Petition written by long-time resident Michael Keough, signed by 500+ citizens and endorsed by our organization, a full independent investigation must take place and be done as soon as possible of the DuPont contaminated properties and needs to also include a full independent investigation of our contaminated neighborhoods. The Environmental Protection Agency must take lead oversight of the Pompton Lakes DuPont contamination site and any other property/properties currently owned or formerly owned by DuPont which may not be presently considered as part of the "presently labeled" two-decade old contamination site. Our contaminated neighborhoods known as the "DuPont Plume" (as well as the "barrier" areas) must also be part of this investigation and needs the full undivided attention of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The DuPont contaminated property/properties and our neighborhoods must be placed on the National Priority List for once and for all.***

Lois Marie Gibbs, Executive Director of the Center for Health, Environment & Justice (CHEJ), has been called the "Mother of Superfund" as her community at Love Canal in Niagara Falls, NY was in part the impetus for creating Superfund after 20,000 tons of chemicals were discovered buried in her neighborhood. Gibbs said, "Thirty years ago this December, President Jimmy

Carter signed the law which created the Federal Superfund. It is tragic that three decades later the same crisis exists within hundreds of communities, and we have a woefully underfunded program ill-prepared to address toxic tragedies. The good news is that hundreds of sites threatening Americans have been cleaned up in the last 30 years which has revitalized communities and prevented water supplies from being contaminated by dangerous pollutants. However, the fund has been hit hard by a lack of fees collected from polluters resulting in many communities threatened by toxic sites as they await their turn on the lengthy cleanup list. **Now, it is time for Congress to take the burden off taxpayers who are paying for Superfund today. This year the chemical industry is banking a 200% increase in profits (Chemical Week, 10/8/2010). We need to reduce government spending and reinstate polluter pays fees in 2011. It is time for Congress to give Superfund the much-needed gift of reliable, adequate funding for its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday to protect American communities."**

**Community and environmental organizations around the country are delivering birthday cupcakes and letters today to remind federal policymakers that taxpayers should not be footing the bill to clean up abandoned toxic waste sites and to urge reinstatement of the "polluter pays" fees to replenish Superfund. Supported by President Barack Obama, three bills are pending that would reinstate the industry fees (NJ Senator Frank Lautenberg's S. 3164; OR Representative Earl Blumenauer's HR 564; and NJ Representative Frank Pallone's H.R. 832.**

As the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Superfund approaches on December 11th, the once-robust toxic cleanup fund is weakest when needed most according to a recent federal report. For 15 years, the government imposed fees on companies that went into a trust fund to clean up the worst toxic sites in the country. These fees expired in 1995 and Congress did not renew them, so the fund ran out of money in 2003. Since then, the federal government has appropriated public dollars every year. But the budget is too small and this has greatly slowed the rate of site cleanups. **A 2010 report by the US General Accountability Office (GAO) found the program completed clean ups at 19 sites last year, compared with 89 in 1999. GAO also found that at over 60 percent of 239 Superfund sites with "unacceptable or unknown human exposure," all or more than half of the cleanup work remains to be done due to insufficient funding.** And it will only get worse. EPA estimates that costs will be up to \$681 million each year through 2014, which greatly exceeds the previous annual costs of \$220 to \$267 million (2000 to 2009). In addition, EPA estimates that about 25 sites per year will be added to Superfund in the next 5 years, higher than the past average of 16 sites per year.

**For an interview with Lois Gibbs and more information,** contact Moira Bulloch, CHEJ at 703-237-2249 X19 or [mbulloch@chej.org](mailto:mbulloch@chej.org)

Sources: *Chemical Week*, 10/8/2010 [http://www.chemweek.com/sections/viewpoint/Profit-Recovery\\_30061.html](http://www.chemweek.com/sections/viewpoint/Profit-Recovery_30061.html)  
*Superfund: EPA's Estimated Costs to Remediate Existing Sites Exceed Current Funding Levels*, 5/2010, GAO 10-380 <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-10-380>