

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton  
Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy  
Hearing on “Oversight of CERCLA Implementation”  
July 13, 2016**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

Superfund is now some 36 years old, and the truth is some clean-up projects that we are working on seem as old as the law itself. The Kalamazoo River clean-up has been underway most of the time that I've served in Congress, but finally we are seeing some light at the end of the tunnel. While we are by no means finished on the Kalamazoo River, we have made some significant headway.

If red tape were a toxic material, the CERCLA law would be the biggest Superfund site of them all. Today we ask, “Does it have to be that way?” If the federal government is to have a role, it should be to bring parties together to speed clean-ups. Instead, CERCLA seems to slow them down. What changes do stakeholders suggest to speed things up? How can we make CERCLA more efficient? Can we reduce the red tape? Should the states and communities have a bigger say-so in clean-up plans, and have it sooner? I know that when EPA began to listen to local and state stakeholders on the Kalamazoo project, a more workable and acceptable solution began to emerge.

I thank Assistant Administrator Mathy Stanislaus for returning to the committee. He has been one of our most frequent witnesses through the years, and we appreciate his consistent and congenial testimony.

We are also glad to hear from our panel of stakeholders and experts as well. A hearing in this subcommittee would not be complete without the voice of the states and other partners.

We also welcome two of our House colleagues, Ann Wagner and Lacey Clay, who will share their frustration over the pace of a clean-up in Missouri. Effective advocates for their constituents, they are willing to think outside the box to find the most efficient solution. So are we, and that's why we are having this hearing. Let's find solutions that produce, not just more process and more delays, but workable, effective clean-ups.

All of our members appreciate the chance to take a deeper dive into these thorny issues that impact so many Americans and we are looking for constructive solutions. Let's listen carefully so that we can find them.

###