

November 7, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable John Shimkus  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
Subcommittee on the Environment  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Paul Tonko  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
Subcommittee on the Environment  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Walden, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Shimkus and Ranking Member Tonko,

My name is Estela Garcia and a long time residence in Arvin, CA. Arvin is a community of around 20,000 population, most of the community is latino and farm workers.. Our water in Arvin has been contaminated with Nitrates for which the City has been working on cleaning up.. Our water I know we are surrounded by Dairies and agriculture which I feel contribute to the contamination of our water. The cow manure is used in the agriculture very heavily. We have so many dairies that have been unregulated for many years, with their ponds unlined and polluting our water.

I am afraid we could be risking our health if we drink the water. I do not want to see any of my family member or my community suffer because of these nitrates. I can not see some one get cancer, or deaths to infants because our water is contaminated with nitrates, or find out of health effects of blue baby syndrome.

Our water quality has not been in compliance with the EPA standards. For this reason, our water district had to ask for multimillion loans, which means that we the costumers will have to pay for them. Then I have to spend another \$50.00 for bottle water. I am able to this for now, but I am sure there are many families, who are farmworkers, who can not afford to pay for the bottle water, so their only choice is to drink the City water that is contaminated. Our community like many around here in California have to pay high rates. We have had 8 consecutive years in total of high water rates and I know it is not going to stop there.

Our communities want to resolve these issues of contamination without having to sue. We have not been able to be successful to get the EPA and the State to clean up the nitrates in the water.

I ask you to take into account our situation we find our selves in Delano and if it's with in your power to help our communities to stop the contamination of nitrates on our water, we will be widely appreciated.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ms Estela Garcia', written in a cursive style.

Estela Garcia.

Arvin, CA 92302