

## Public Hearing Comments

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To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources) <DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov>; mroberts@comingcleaninc.org <mroberts@comingcleaninc.org>

 1 attachments (786 KB)

ej-for-de-report-ucs-2017.pdf;

Comments on Docket #2020-P-A-0019 (Congo Funeral Home)

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Organization: Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform

### Comments:

We are writing in support of the many petitions, letters and documents submitted to DENY the permit to the Congo Funeral Home to construct the #2 crematory permit appellation and HALT construction on the 1st crematory.. It is our understanding the community was unaware of the 1st application. When made aware of this application, the communities were of the understanding this was the 1st only to learn it was the 2nd application. This community is an established majority Black community consisting of legacy generations, thereby the demographics are majority elders and young. In fact, there is a state run child care facility located directly across the street from the proposed facility. We, EJHA have been contacted due to our health and science based work were are engaged in with EJ communities in the area. In addition, we are working with the communities in NY, NJ and NC who are deeply challenged by this current issue that is now interconnected with the COVID19 pandemic. It is our understanding there's significant gaps in who's responsible for enforcement and oversight. In addition, given the COVID19 pandemic we can't understand why DNREC is NOT allowing for "verbal" public comment when states like KY and others provided extra levels of engagement regarding permit applications during this time of COVID19. There's a crematory already located less than a mile away at the Silverbrook Cemetery. That said, this community does not need the additional burden of the toxics that will gravely impact the elders and children who are most vulnerable and again are the majority demographics in the community. In essence, you DNREC have not only violated their constitutional rights to engage, but you are not really taking this pandemic into account it appears. In addition to ALL of the other documents submitted by community members and Widener Law School, we wish to submit our report on the environmental justice and health disparity conditions in DE. This community falls within the scope of this report. Last, this permit and the one already granted is VERY CONTRADICTIONARY to the Biden Environmental and Economic Justice Plan. Why? The communities from NY, NJ and NC shared their documents, challenges and concerns with him. In addition, the community members are part of the the organized EJ group the Delaware Concerned Residents for EJ, an affiliate of EJHA. It is for ALL of these reasons and documents submitted that we EJHA request the denial of this permit application, in addition, we request that the current construction on the 1s crematory be halted. DNREC's process for community engagement on ALL levels is completely flawed and again, stands in direct violation of their constitutional and civil engagement rights.