Dear MDEQ* Director Dan Wyant:

For several decades, Detroit and downriver communities have suffered from the cumulative impacts of heavy industrial pollution. Now, the federal Environmental Protection Agency has designated a large portion of Wayne County as failing to meet the federal air quality standard for sulfur dioxide.

Exposure to sulfur dioxide in even very short time periods — such as five minutes — can have significant impacts to human health, including aggravation of asthma and other respiratory illnesses. Sulfur dioxide exposure can also aggravate existing heart disease, leading to increased hospitalizations and premature deaths. Asthmatics, children and the elderly are especially at risk from such pollution.

It is time that this public health burden is addressed. I urge you to put in place strong limits on sulfur dioxide, decreasing pollution in my community below the 75 ppb over 1 hour standard set by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Your actions can allow me, my family and my neighbors to breathe easier.

*MDEQ - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
IMPROVE OUR EVERYDAY LIVES: CURB SO2 POLLUTION