Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Details

File #:	18-6115	**Version:**	1	**Name:**	Sterigenics Resolution
Type:	Resolution			**Status:**	Approved
File created:	9/25/2018			**In control:**	Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee
On agenda:	9/26/2018			**Final action:**	10/17/2018
Title:	PROPOSED RESOLUTION				

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE CURRENT UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S APPROVAL OF STERIGENICS' OPERATION AND PROTECTING SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY RESIDENTS FROM TOXIC AIR POLLUTION

WHEREAS, a recent federal report shows that some Cook County and DuPage County residents are exposed to "the country's highest cancer risks from toxic air pollution;" and

WHEREAS, according to the report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Sterigenics International Inc. ("Sterigenics") is emitting elevated levels of a cancer-causing chemical called ethylene oxide in its Willowbrook, Illinois, facilities; and

WHEREAS, data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2014 National Air Toxins Assessment map shows that residents are exposed to elevated levels of ethylene oxide in and surrounding Willowbrook, including in the Cook County municipalities of Burr Ridge, Indian Head Park, Hinsdale, Willow Springs, Justice, Western Springs, La Grange, La Grange Park and Brookfield; and

WHEREAS, the current permit authorizing Sterigenics gives the United States Environmental Protection Agency the authority to declare the facility a threat to public health and seek a court order to immediately shut it down; and

WHEREAS, the current permit authorizing Sterigenics gives the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency the authority to declare the facility a threat to public health and seek a court order to immediately shut it down; and

WHEREAS, in response to this crisis, Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner stated: "This is not an emergency. This is not a public health immediate crisis;" and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned federal report states that ethylene oxide is "highly reactive, readily absorbed, and easily distributed in the human body" and is "carcinogenic to humans;" and

WHEREAS, the health of residents in Willowbrook and surrounding communities in Cook and DuPage counties must take immediate priority;

WHEREAS, the protection of citizens' air quality in Illinois must become a priority of the State and local governments; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency must commence immediate air quality monitoring in Cook and Dupage Counties; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County that the

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Board does hereby call on the United States Environmental Protection Agency and Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner to immediately declare Sterigenics's Willowbrook facilities a threat to public health and seek an immediate court order to shut down the facilities until the company can prove that residents near the facilities are no longer at risk; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Cook County requests that the Office of the Cook County State's Attorney examine possible enforcement actions to protect the environment and health the residents of Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a written copy of this resolution be sent to the United States Environmental Protection Agency the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner.

Sponsors: LARRY SUFFREDIN, JOHN P. DALEY, LUIS ARROYO JR, RICHARD R. BOYKIN, JERRY BUTLER, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET GAINER, JESÚS G. GARCÍA, GREGG GOSLIN, EDWARD M. MOODY, STANLEY MOORE, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS, JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, JOHN A. FRITCHEY, SEAN M. MORRISON, TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER

Indexes:

Code sections:

Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
10/17/2018	1	Board of Commissioners	approve	Pass
10/17/2018	1	Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee	recommend for approval	Pass
9/26/2018	1	Board of Commissioners	refer	Pass

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