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Dear E.P.A.,

My name is Tia Ma, a resident in the Stephen Foster Neighborhood, business owner, gardener, and artist.

I am also a member of Protect Gainesville Citizens.

I am writing you to share my concerns about the Cabot/ Koppers Superfund cleanup site and show my support for PGC being awarded the Technical Assistance Grant.

I live across 6th St., only a few blocks away from the superfund site.

I run my Licensed Massage Therapist business from my home, specifically because it is a quiet nature setting, where my clients can stroll through my garden and gaze at the fish in the pond before they come inside for a massage.

Lately though, I wonder if walking through my yard is cancerous for them, or if my cat is safe to lay on the dirt while I am gardening, or when I turn on the air conditioner or heat am I blasting toxic dust all over my kitchen, my massage table, my clients.

I have stopped growing food on my 3/4 of an acre because I am filled with dread about what I might be ingesting, via the soil, the water or the air.

I have heard rumors of water, air, and soil contamination. I have heard that research has been done, I have heard more could be done.

My hope with the technical assistance grant is that we as a community can have some say in how we want this clean up carried out.

Protect Gainesville Citizens is rich with researchers, scientists, urban planners, artists, families, working class folks, single grandmothers etc, who have input to share about the health of our town.

A week ago I heard a string of large explosions coming off of the Koppers site, it was around 10:00 at night.

I have also smelled foul burning late at night. This concerns me, because I don't know how the clean up is taking place, or if there is any regard to further environmental damage.

I believe the TAG could afford us time to gather all the research that has taken place locally and to explore the absolute best options for our aquifer, our animals, our air, and our children.

Thank you for your care and attention with our town,

Tia Ma L.M.T.

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