

My name is Laura Sabransky and I live in Chicago.

In 1993, after decades of daily exposure to airplane soot over my home in Elk Grove Village, I was diagnosed with asthma. Summer 2012 I experienced sharp pains in my chest & restricted breathing during the record number of Ozone alert days then discovered another inflammatory condition called costochondritis.

I am part of a not so exclusive group of 50 million people who in the U.S. who have chronic life-threatening respiratory diseases.*

In 2016, I served as an elected Bernie Sanders delegate from the same district as Illinois Pollution Board appointee and State Central Committeewoman Cynthia Santos. Tens of thousands fellow voters said loud and clear we want:

- **Renewable energy**
- **An end to corporate bailouts**
- **And that we are fed up with corruption**

Now we see that you - the PCB -- are considering increasing the limit of pollutants like sulfur dioxide & nitrogen oxide Dynegy Company can emit by as much as 79% -- upon recommendation by Illinois EPA chief Alec Messina, who Governor Rauner appointed under a cloud of federal ethics violations.

We also see that our elected General Assembly members are considering bailing out Dynegy -- whose coal plants emitted as much carbon dioxide as 6 million cars last year -- even though our state is in financial ruin.

Two weeks ago I visited the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis which reinforces that systematic violence upon and commodification of humans is what made our country wealthy. And here we sit today, discussing how much more toxic assault upon our bodies we should withstand so one set of wealthy individuals can continue to profit.

Here is what Dynegy CEO Robert Flexon said only 3 years ago:

Flexon said it was the "wrong behavior" for fossil fuel companies to delay environmental improvements.***

Flexon was right.

Humans are not commodities.

And Dynegy's survival should not depend upon threatening ours.

We are relying upon you -- the members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board -- to "protect health, welfare, property and the quality of life" by voting against this ill-advised rule change.

* <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/respiratory-diseases>

**<http://www.aafa.org/page/asthma-facts.aspx>

***<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-rauner-dynegy-coal-met-20170926-story.html>

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