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From: [Tipsord, Marie](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#)
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Attachments: [Please Don't Murder Me Excerpt.odt](#)

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From: Winter Butterfly [mailto:thewinterbutterfly@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 10:08 PM
To: Tipsord, Marie <Marie.Tipsord@illinois.gov>
Subject: [External] Public Comment from Julia Scott

Dear Illinois Pollution Control
Board,
2018

April 20,

I grew up in the more affluent areas of Tazewell county. Around thirty miles from my current home in the area Mr. Bloomberg says should be concerned about the ammonia being emitted from the ethanol plant located blocks away. Within months of moving to Pekin I became extremely ill. I could detail the journey that led me to conclude that I am suffering from environmental illness but I've already done that. There is a 186 page novel that chronicles the discovery and a plethora of medical documentation to prove that fact.

In January of 2018 the first public comment was held in Peoria. It was at that time I knew that if something drastic did not happen we, The Heartland, would be no longer. Let's not kid ourselves. If you allow Dynegy to DOUBLE the level of SO2 it will send us over the tipping point. The plants and people bear visible surface damage. At the rate we are being polluted we won't last much longer if things are allowed to remain the same. It is time to move toward the TRANSITION AWAY FROM FOSSIL FUELS. We don't have the luxury of "bailing them out." We don't need to wait for the future. They are killing us now.

Story after story was told that day. One heart-wrenching tale of death and sickness after another. It didn't seem to me that all of you cared. Maybe two of you. Possibly three. I was terrified that number was too generous of an estimate. It's too low to begin with.

I came home and began sorting through thousands of pages of my personal journal. It wasn't just an ordinary journal. It was all my personal notes and documentation of the devastation I had witnessed in the plants and the people from the Tazewell area. It painted a picture my people can relate to.

It was independently published on Amazon in the beginning of March 2018. I drove over five hours to tell you of its existence. You didn't have time to waste listening to comments from the concerned public.

On April 16, 2018 I drove a combined total of three hours to again do the right thing. I was raised right and told you shouldn't ever say anything about anyone you can't say to their face. In fact, here's a little

excerpt from the novel that reflects on just that.

Expose the wicked.

Who does this?

Cowards. Can't kill us to our face. Can't even own up to it. Cowards.

My aunt told me something when I was a kid that I always thought was pretty sound advice to live by. She told me one shouldn't ever say anything about anyone they couldn't say to their face. Focus on accountability and all that jazz. True that.

That should go at least double for murder. If you think you have the right to take the only life I have I expect you to look me in the eyes when you do it.

I wasn't exactly sure what I was going to say that day. I was tired of preparing elaborate speeches that weren't ever truly heard and usually cut off after two minutes anyway. I was prepared to speak my heart and make you aware of my written work. After all, it's about you. It seemed only right.

I was not prepared for you to laugh at the death of my mother. Not ready to politely ignore your smirks as I told you my grandmother had been hospitalized with pneumonia. I'm glad you thought it was funny I can't open my windows due to the stench of sulfur, ammonia, and whatever else you are allowing them to emit. It took away all the unfounded guilt I felt. You'll probably find it hilarious that my neighbor's cat died of stomach cancer yesterday.

I don't think Dynege is responsible for ALL the environmental devastation in the area. I KNOW they are at least a third of the problem. Your decision could allow them to become the number one violator with absolutely no repercussions. NRG Powerton and the ethanol plant is responsible for the other majority of the rest. The handful of other violators that are not being regulated either and compose the remaining percentage. Why are you not stopping this? You have been made painfully aware on multiple occasions. I have been present at four hearings in the past year. I have read your decisions regarding many more.

I won't cower. After you laughed at my mother's death I left. I left because I take the high road. I'm better than you. Prove me wrong.

I never got a chance to direct you towards the historically accurate and highly documented book that I penned. It doesn't paint you in the most positive light. You deserve to know that it exists. It's also about you and your blatant disregard for humanity and the planet. Here is the link.

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https://www.amazon.com/Please-Don't-Murder-Admissible-Confessions-ebook/dp/B07B6GJK86/ref=sr_1_2?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1524279265&sr=1-2&keywords=please+don%27t+murder+me

In case the link doesn't work it's entitled "Please Don't Murder Me". It's the politest way I could phrase it.

As I stated at the last dog and pony show...

It doesn't matter if you read it. The truth is out there and the false narratives have been destroyed. My people are RELATING.

You will soon be making a decision. You can either prove me wrong or make me a counterculture icon.

I'm an Earth girl. My dream is to be a recluse far far removed from society. I would give anything to live out the rest of my existence in quiet solitude. Prove me wrong.

Please don't make me famous.

Please Please Don't Murder Me.

I won't waste the seven dollars the book costs to send it to you. I'm done using my limited resources hoping you will care. I am however spending the seven dollars to send copies of the book to several independent media outlets. I will include the last 20 pages or so in this e-mail. After all, it's the right thing to do. Please see attached excerpt.

As I stated when I left Springfield Monday afternoon after you became joyful after learning of the death of my mother and the hospitalization of my Grandmother... ENJOY! :)

Sincerely,

Julia M. Scott

Sent from Yahoo Mail. [Get the app](#)

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Taking a stand against against the burning of fossil fuels is pro-humanity. It's the workers and the communities that house the villainous facilities that pay the cost at first. In the end the price is seen by us all. We have the right to demand a future.

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A kind gentleman walks the streets of my grandparent's neighborhood. If the weather's permitting he'll be out and about.

It's an unseasonably warm day for February and I spot him on the sidewalk. The permanent grin etched upon his face widens as I pull over to say hello. The guy is always smiling.

We exchange pleasantries about the weather and I ask him how his day is going. He tells me it's wonderful and if it wasn't that would be no one's fault but his own.

True that friend.

I will be happy.

I am the captain of my ship.

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Grackles. I had no clue the birds were grackles. At first sight I thought they were blackbirds or crows. Now they have began gathering closer to my front porch and I can see the blue of their head and the brightness of their piercing eyes. They are grackles.

It's time to become brave. To actively seek the solution and adapt to the changing circumstances. What I'm seeing with my naked eye is my reality. People seldom believe what you say but they will

ALWAYS believe what you do.

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I'm ready to be done. I'm at my breaking point. The even more pressing issue is that The Heartland is also nearing it's tipping point. I imagine the correct phrasing would be "now or never".

There are more than enough false narratives. We need one that speaks truth. We need a voice for the people.

Dynegy is asking to increase the level of sulfur dioxide emitted into the Heartland. Why? To increase their profits. If allowed it will be more than just a straw that broke the camels back. It's the system that continually allows these attacks.

Preventable death is MANSLAUGHTER.

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It's January 2018.

There's a demonstration being held in Springfield today. We are gathering in front of the Lincoln statue at the capital building and will then make our way up to the Governor's office. The reason for this action? For the past eight months he and his administration have been working behind closed doors to bailout Dynegy. Filtering toxic emissions is highly costly and cutting into the corporation's profit margin. Their murderous proposed plan is to emit even more sulfur dioxide. In this already burdened and struggling environment? This should be extremely interesting.

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The rally was phenomenal.

Hundreds of us gathered out front. We did indeed march inside and up the steps to the Governor's office. We held a mock trial right there in the corridor.

An activist dressed in a judge's robe begins by addressing another activist who is portraying the guilty party. He reads the charges being brought against him out loud to us all. The governor is to be held accountable for colluding with Dynegy attorneys in an attempt to change air pollution standards to Dynegy's financial benefit.

The trial proceeds by the judge calling forth witnesses from the crowd. One by one they recount the horrors we as residents of Illinois must suffer at the hands of Dynegy. Toward the end we demanded the 12 jurors hold him accountable. His monumental role in this profit making venture will surely cause many deaths. All jurors return with a guilty verdict.

After the trial everyone raised signs stating "People Over Profits".

We chanted -

Rauner, Rauner, what do you say?

Who controls your EPA?

and

Fight, Fight, Fight!

Clean air is a human right.

It really was quite the commotion. The place should have been a media circus. Thank goodness there was one camera crew there.

I got home and began searching for local coverage. The main story out of the capitol today? It had to be evacuated due to a false alarm. Someone had mistakenly reported a fire had broken out in the basement. According to the news the call had been made around a half hour after we left.

There was one 45 second segment on one channel. Hundreds of demonstrators from across the state marched up the capitol steps. It should have been the top story that day.

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Way back when, back in the days of blissful unawareness, I believed the EPA was a bureau created to protect the people from disaster at the hands of Greed. That used to be a true statement.

Now most of the positions sit vacant either due to lack of funding or the fact that the good honest people could no longer cast a blind eye to the demise of the agency. The few stragglers who remain to fight The Good Fight are quickly outnumbered.

The Environmental Protection Agency has now been infiltrated by the very people it was formed to protect against. The result is an agency that errs on the side of corporate greed.

It's a ludicrous situation. Nowhere is the devastation more prevalent than here in the Rustbelt. Here in our home once previously known as the Heartland.

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The public hearing against Dynege is held in the auditorium at the public library. The members of the Pollution Control Board sit at a table on a stage. In front of them sit the Dynege legal counsel and the manager of the Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System for Illinois. He is speaking on Dynege's behalf. He is also the man who has yet to return one of my many phone calls.

How can he be expected to act in the best interest of both the people and the corporations? He can't. It's an impossibility.

Your hands are tied Mr. Bloomberg.

I get it.

Can't let it ride though.

I turned my attention back to the stage. The remaining members of the EPA are poised ready to fight The Good Fight. They eagerly await to attentively listen to our pleas.

WRONG WRONG WRONG

The public comment portion for the Dynegy hearing was also a joke. I'm beginning to see that every EPA public comment usually is. They have already decided the fate of the people. This is merely a legal obligation they have to fill and purely ceremonial. They don't want to hear the truth as it would risk interfering with their conscience.

This example was no different. They immediately limit the public comments from the standard five minutes to a mere two.

I anticipated as much and had feverishly reworked my own comment to a mere four minutes and twenty seconds. I poured my heart into that comment and was the only one who heard it's brilliance in it's entirety.

One by one they cut us off. Our personal stories of unjust and undue suffering bored them. We weren't worth wasting another minute of their time. Time is money to them. I get it.

It wouldn't have mattered anyway. The pen is indeed mightier than the sword but they are blind. They are blinded by Greed and it has rendered them incapable of reading the writing on the wall.

The one who continually rolls her eyes also happens to be the board's chairman. Every time an attorney brings up a valid point in defense of the people she intervenes. She intervenes with a comment to immediately attempt to discredit the warranted concerns and promote industries disastrous plan. I thought she was supposed to be on our side. She's the head of the pollution control board for frustration's sake.

The reaction is unsettling to say the least and it prompts me to throw her name into a search engine.

Direct hit. Her position before becoming the board's chair was at Schneider Electric.

Got it. I got the whole picture now.

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Day 2 of the Dynegy hearing.

It began at eight and I'm late due to yet another doctor appointment. So very tired of sitting in doctor offices, EPA hearings, city council meetings, etc. Who lives like this?

They call a quick break for lunch so I run out to my car to reflect for a bit. I don't have enough money to eat. I barely have enough change for the meter.

Courtesy of my extreme poverty I have beaten everyone back to the auditorium. It's vacant except for the pollution board members. They are sitting at the table happily devouring sandwiches. Useless idle chatter fills the room. It's infuriating. How can they laugh and joke with so much at stake? They don't care.

It's another shot to my already bruised and battered psyche. I made a beautiful irrational decision and began walking toward the front of the room. In my hand is the toxic release inventory for my area. It states that my city is the fifth polluted in the entire country. My county is in the top ten for toxic releases to air and water. The toxins include mutagens, carcinogens, and teratogens.

As I approached I repeated these stats out loud. The idle chatter stops and is replaced with calls for me to please stop. I can't speak to them unless it's "on the record".

2shay.

My allotted two minutes "on the record" didn't quite cut it. Not enough time to plead for the life of my friends, family, and neighbors. Didn't cover all the talking points. They deserve better. We all do.

I halfheartedly apologized and stated that the information's intended target was Mr. Bloomberg. The air quality in the area is not being monitored. Seemingly not phased by the horrific stats they went back to

eating their sandwiches.

I gave Mr. Bloomberg the information during the next break that day. I introduced myself as Julia, the girl who has been attempting to contact his office for months. He said to give him a couple weeks and he'd be in touch.

At the conclusion of the hearing the hearing officer called me up from the back of the room to approach the podium.

She asked me to repeat what I had stated out loud while interrupting their lunch so it could be entered into the record. I did.

It won't make a difference. They don't care. If they do they are more than welcome to prove me wrong. That's all I ever really wanted anyway.

Please prove me wrong.

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Mr. Bloomberg returned my call.

The message he finally saw fit to hear stated that I had called several times and have yet to receive a call in response. If it wasn't the correct number please at least have the courtesy to return my call and direct me to the correct one.

He stated a lot of messed up things. I don't even know if I could list them all.

LIES. SO MANY LIES.

Lie # 1 Sorry it took me so long to get back to you I was looking into some things.

Lie # 2 It appears the area you are referring to already has monitors in place.

I inform him that the only monitor in place in our area measures sulfur dioxide. A substance in which we are always out of the safe recommended levels. Hence our designation as a "non-attainment area". In fact, cancer causing sulfur dioxide is the very substance Dynegy is asking to emit even more of into our already struggling environment. Hence our designation as a "non-attainment area". I asked him what the local levels of SO₂ actually were as we, the public, are not able to obtain them. He told me I had to fill out a F.O.I.A. (Freedom of Information Act) If I wait another week they will be a matter of public record. He now has to publish them in the file for the Dynegy hearing.

It's absolutely relevant. He absolutely should.

Lie # 3 He tells me the stats I have provided him with are not accurate. The corporations self reported stats were incorrect. They had erred on the side of overestimation and as a result they had falsely reported tons of zinc and other nasty compounds. It can all be summed up as a sort of "false alarm".

He then goes on to tell me that the levels of sulfur dioxide have become significantly lower since the ethanol plant out my front door has quit using it's coal fired boilers a little over a year ago. He acts as if we should be grateful and that makes things all rainbows here now.

Taking him off guard I ask why. Why did it take so long for them to be reprimanded? They were ordered to do so years ago. Why were they allowed to continue using them despite the obvious harm they were causing to an entire unsuspecting population?

Lie #4 He said they had been doing something.

It's beyond messed up that an ethanol plant is allowed to operate in a highly residential area. Pacific Ethanol's other plant is located in Nebraska. The wet mill and dry mill strategically placed far far away from each other and miles from citizens.

Lie #5 He stated they would look into it.

I ask about the tons of ammonia that is being spewed into the air.

Lie #6 He says that we shouldn't worry about it. It's only a "precursor".

That makes no sense. No one should be rapidly inhaling ammonia fumes and it is obviously harmful to the environment. No one disputes that.

Lie #7 He tells me that the tons of ammonia being emitted are not my concern. The ammonia does not settle here. It's effects are seen much further away from the emission source.

Lie #8 That's what the air monitor over thirty miles away is for. According to it the air quality is perfectly acceptable.

That ONE particular monitor he continues to reference is located on top of a hill, far far far away from the river, two towns over, upwind, and completely removed from any type of industry whatsoever. I tell him just that.

The conversation ends when he relates the only truth he's uttered this entire time. He tells me not to get my hopes up and makes no promises.

777

It's been snowing all day. A winter weather advisory is in effect and the roads are definitely slick. As I rounded a sharp curve the flash of a police car's ominous lights infiltrate the darkness. The traffic has come to a stand still.

What at first appears to be a minor collision is much worse. A young doe is lying in the middle of the roadway. She's hurt but manages to dazedly raise her head.

The motorists are growing impatient and the policeman leaning over the poor fragile animal makes a rash horrible decision. He begins to kick her off the road. Her front legs are jutting out onto the slick pavement in an attempt to escape this cruelty. She's frightened.

The doe can't pull herself up and she's SCARED. Her back legs lay unresponsive as she painfully and sporadically drags herself off the busy road. I can see into her eyes but my blinding headlights are stopping her from seeing into mine. The gnawing guilt of witnessing an innocent soul being kicked off to the side of the road is excruciating.

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I'm more than frustrated today. I know I have to finish this. All of this.

This ends one of two ways.

They quit killing us or we die.

777

February 2018

This is the end. I hope and pray it is the beginning of many more beautiful tales to come. I will be devastated if it only chronicles the beginning of our tragic demise.

Our fate will soon be decided. Greed can not be allowed to destroy us in order to increase their profit margin. They don't plan on preserving creation. They don't care. They just don't.

It's time to make Greed the PAST.

I can't take all the sickness anymore. I can no longer helplessly watch as the chemical haze envelops the homeland that I love. We are on the brink of becoming a defeated people. Being quiet is no longer an option. Policymakers and regulatory proceedings have failed us. If Dynegey's proposal is allowed to pass it will mean the end for us.

Please don't murder me.

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