From: Rachel Inez Klein
To: Brown, Don; Halloran, Brad
Subject: [External] Public Comment: Opposition to CITGO Lemont Refinery Petition (Docket No. AS 2026-001)
Date: Thursday, July 30, 2026 7:44:34 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I respectfully submit this formal objection to Docket No. 2026-001

Romeoville is not simply where I live, it is my home. The wetlands, the Des Plaines River, and the Isle a la Cache Museum are woven into my life. I know the trails so well that I could navigate them in darkness. Those wetlands have been my sanctuary during some of the hardest moments of my life. During my pregnancy, I walked the river to ease swollen feet and quiet my fears. It became a place of healing for both myself and my unborn son.

Looking back now, I am devastated to realize that while my family, my neighbors, and my unborn child were breathing this air, drinking this water, and living our daily lives, we may have been exposed to pollution from one of the region's largest industrial facilities.

What makes this especially painful is the belief that local governments and emergency agencies have long understood the risks associated with these emissions. Communities surrounding the refinery have received funding from CITGO, including support for police, fire departments, and emergency response training. While emergency preparedness is important, it raises difficult questions when those same communities continue to bear the environmental burden.

It is deeply troubling that a company reporting billions of dollars in liquidity would seek regulatory changes allowing greater emissions rather than investing in modernizing aging equipment and reducing pollution at its source.

Too often, the industrial side of Romeoville feels overlooked.

We have repeatedly asked for investments that improve our quality of life, walkable grocery stores, cleaner air, healthier neighborhoods, and protection of our natural resources. Instead, we have watched warehouses multiply while industrial development continues to expand around us.

We ask for clean water, yet we continue to worry about contamination and aging infrastructure.

We ask for clean air, and instead we are presented with Docket No. 2026-001, a proposal that WE the people believe will permit even greater pollution in the communities that have already sacrificed enough.

The Des Plaines River, our wetlands, our wildlife, our homes, and, most importantly, our children deserve better.

No community should be expected to trade its health for corporate profit.

I am deeply disappointed that the Village of Romeoville has continued to welcome industrial expansion while many residents fear for the long term health of their families. It is

difficult to celebrate community events knowing that families gather under the shadow of industrial emissions that many believe could have been reduced through responsible investment and modern pollution controls.

History remembers the decisions made by those entrusted with protecting the public. I urge every decision maker reviewing this docket to consider not only economic interests but also the health, safety, and future of the people who live here.

I respectfully request that Docket No. 2026-001 be denied and that every available effort be made to require meaningful pollution reductions, equipment modernization, and stronger protections for the residents of Romeoville, Lemont, Lockport, and the surrounding communities.

Our children deserve clean air. Our families deserve honest leadership. Our community deserves better.

Respectfully,

Rachel Inez Klein

Rachelinezklein@gmail.com
Romeoville Resident