

BARRY LOUDERMILK  
11TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

www.facebook.com/RepLoudermilk  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1011**

422 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2931

9898 HWY 92, SUITE 100  
WOODSTOCK, GA 30188  
(770) 429-1776

135 CHEROKEE AVENUE, SUITE 122  
CARTERSVILLE, GA 30120  
(770) 429-1776

600 GALLERIA PARKWAY, SE  
SUITE 120  
ATLANTA, GA 30339  
(770) 429-1776

August 16, 2019

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Wheeler,

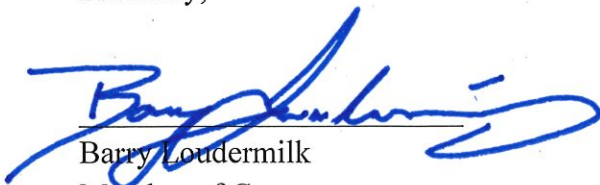
Earlier this year, media reports surfaced of potential health impacts from the chemical gas ethylene oxide, which is used for the sterilization of medical equipment. In recent weeks, there has been a growing concern about the use of gas ethylene oxide by Sterigenics, a business in Georgia's 11th Congressional District.

For the safety of citizens who live and work in the vicinity of Sterigenics, and for the sake of the business and its employees, I believe it is of extreme importance that all relevant local, state, and federal government entities work together to ensure Sterigenics is operating in a safe and acceptable manner. To assist in this effort, I ask that the EPA respond to the following questions:

- 1) What steps is the EPA taking to cooperate with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division in response to the potential risk to the affected community?
- 2) What is the EPA doing to assist Cobb County and the city of Smyrna in their investigations?
- 3) Would the EPA support efforts by the city of Smyrna for independent air testing to identify risks to the area?
- 4) How does the agency ensure that companies are reporting accurate information through their reports to the EPA?
- 5) When potential risks arise in local communities around the nation, what process does the EPA follow to notify residents of those potential risks?
- 6) Is the EPA planning any further tests to identify potential risks posed by ethylene oxide?

With the potential impact this matter could have on the constituents of my district, I urge you to respond to these questions as soon as possible. I appreciate your attention and thank you, in advance, for your timely response to these questions.

Sincerely,

  
Barry Loudermilk  
Member of Congress