

PHIL BOYLE
SENATOR, 4TH DISTRICT
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND SMALL BUSINESS



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY 12247

COMMITTEES
CODES
CONSUMER PROTECTION
HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING

April 4, 2016

Mr. Howard Zucker
Commissioner
N.Y.S. Department of Health
Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

Dear Commissioner Zucker;

Since the recent Department of Environmental Conservation and Department of Health public forum on the contamination of the Dzus Superfund Site, Willets Creek and Lake Capri, many members of the West Islip community raised questions and concerns on the possible correlation between exposure to cadmium and a positive diagnosis of breast cancer.

During the question and answer portion of the forum, audience members heard conflicting reports on whether exposure to cadmium has any correlation to or increases one's chances of acquiring breast cancer. Several residents, breast cancer advocates and environmentalists present at the forum stated that past research studies have demonstrated that extended exposure to cadmium has been known to be a possible contributing factor to breast cancer.

As you may be aware, there is a long and sad history of breast cancer in West Islip. Residents are extremely fearful of exposure to anything that might heighten their chances of a positive diagnosis. It is with this in mind that I urge the Department of Health to provide the most recent, comprehensive information available on long term and short term cadmium exposure and the resulting effects.

With the elevated instances of breast cancer in West Islip, and with the newly detected levels of cadmium found in the area, I would like to suggest that the Department of Health seriously consider a peer review of cadmium effects on the West Islip breast cancer cluster.

We truly appreciate the representatives from the Department of Health who were present to share their expertise with us, but feel there is still a great deal of information that needs to be disseminated to the public. I respectfully request the Department of Health provide information regarding the exposure to cadmium and breast cancer. As the State Senator representing the West Islip community, this is a top priority for me and my constituents.

I look forward to your timely response!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Boyle".

Phil Boyle
Member of the Senate

Cc: Mr. Brad Wenskowski, Public Health Specialist, N.Y.S. Dept. of Health
Ms. Scarlett McLaughlin, Public Health Specialist, N.Y.S. Dept. of Health