

December 20, 2010

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

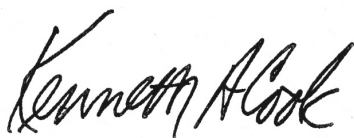
On behalf of the Environmental Working Group (EWG), I am writing to you in support of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. As you know, this much-needed legislation addresses the severe and ongoing health problems of emergency responders, recovery and cleanup workers, local residents, office and area workers, and school children who were exposed to harmful respiratory toxins in the days and months following 9/11. EWG applauds the efforts to provide health monitoring and treatment programs for those sickened at Ground Zero and compensation for the Americans affected by the attacks.

Individuals impacted by these attacks were exposed to unprecedented levels of toxic chemicals through a complex mixture of dust, metal fumes, debris, airborne smoke, and particulate matter. Analysis of dust samples collected from the World Trade Center site found highly toxic elements and compounds such as lead, mercury, dioxin, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and asbestos, a known human carcinogen. Exposure to these contaminants has led to serious health impacts including asthma, chronic laryngitis, lung diseases, and other illnesses.

In responding to the aftermath of 9/11, passage of this legislation sends a powerful message to those who respond to our nation's disasters that our government is committed to addressing and protecting their health and safety when it is most at risk.

We appreciate your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Kenneth A. Cook
President
Environmental Working Group