

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO  
EXPANDED WASTE STORAGE AND TRANSPORT BY US ECOLOGY**

**By Council Members Scott Benson and Mary Sheffield**

WHEREAS, On July 15, 2015, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Office of Waste Management and Radiological Protection, gave formal notice of its intent to issue a hazardous waste management facility expansion operating license to US Ecology Michigan, Inc., pursuant to Part 111, Hazardous Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, which would allow US Ecology to construct and operate additional units to store and treat more hazardous waste at its facility located at 6520 Georgia Street, Detroit; and

WHEREAS, With this permit, DEQ intends to allow a more than ten-fold increase - from 64,000 gallons to nearly 666,000 gallons - in the size of their facility in the City of Detroit near the municipal border with Hamtramck; and

WHEREAS, This expansion plan threatens the health of residents of Detroit and Hamtramck, among others, because hazardous and radioactive waste will be transported down highways and city streets adjacent to residential neighborhoods, before it is pumped into the US Ecology facility for processing, and the liquid waste from US Ecology is then dumped into Detroit's wastewater treatment plant, a practice that was stopped by the State of Pennsylvania when scientists found that city treatment plants were not equipped to remove such toxic and radioactive industrial chemicals from the water; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of this expansion is to enable US Ecology to profit from the irresponsible and dangerous transport, processing, storage and disposal of waste water contaminated with toxic and radioactive pollutants by the process of hydraulic fracturing for fossil fuels, also known as fracking, an irresponsible, extremely undesirable and hazardous activity that is inconsistent with the interests and health of residents in the areas surrounding the US Ecology facility, among others; and

WHEREAS, Because fracking waste can be highly radioactive but in many cases is not subject to regulatory controls for its radioactivity, and there is no safe level of ionizing radiation, expansion of US Ecology's facility would, in effect, allow large amounts of radioactive materials to be treated as if they are not radioactive, for purposes of their hazardous transport, processing and disposal in an environmental justice community populated by a large percentage of People of Color and working poor who are already overburdened with a high and adverse, disproportionate cumulative impact of pollution from many industrial and urban sources. This is unjust and unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, The US Ecology plant at 6520 Georgia St., near the Hamtramck-Detroit border on the east side, is within a mile-and-a-half of a public playground, Dickinson East Elementary School, Oakland International Academy charter school, several churches and occupied residential neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, The City of Detroit should not be used as a dumping ground for hazardous toxic and radioactive wastes created by out-of-state or other outside industrial polluters; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council demand that MDEQ deny US Ecology's permit expansion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution shall be provided to the Mayor's office, the Detroit Health Department, the MDEQ, the members of the Detroit delegation in the State Legislature, Congressional Representatives Conyers and Lawrence, and Senators Stabenow and Peters.