

September [XX,] 2019

[Name of your US Senator or Representative]
[Mailing address of your elected official]

Dear XX:

I live in [insert city name] and I am very concerned about the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adopting the results gained through the Texas Chemical Environmental Commission (TCEQ) evaluation on ethylene oxide (EtO).

In particular, I support EPA's use of the risk estimates as described in the IRIS Evaluation of the Inhalation Carcinogenicity of Ethylene Oxide (December 2016).¹ The IRIS EtO assessment has been reviewed by agency and non-agency experts. It has been subjected to public comment, including from the chemical industry. Additionally, it has been published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.²

The EPA IRIS assessment applied its Guidelines for Carcinogen Risk Assessment (2005) to classify EtO as "carcinogenic to humans" by inhalation. There is clear evidence suggesting that EtO has a destructive effect on the genetic material of cells. There is sufficient weight of evidence to support a mutagenic mode of action for EtO carcinogenicity. There is strong evidence that the key precursor events are anticipated to progress to tumors, including evidence of chromosome damage in humans exposed to EtO.¹

Moreover, the IRIS assessment correctly connects an age-dependent adjustment factor based on the assumption of increased early-life susceptibility, addressing the higher risk to children in early developmental stages.¹

The EPA National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) models and methods have been shown to underestimate true risk by failing to account for the multiple exposures that are the reality in communities like Lake County, Illinois.

This is why I urge you, as my elected representative, to move publicly and quickly to support the IRIS EPA findings above those of the TCEQ. Your support on this issue has stimulated quick responses nationally, statewide, and locally—and your ongoing support for my community will help move forth with repudiating the TCEQ findings.

[Your name]
[Your mailing address]
[Your phone number]

1. US Environmental Protection Agency IRIS Evaluation of Inhalation Carcinogenicity of Ethylene Oxide [PDF]. December 2016. EPA/635/R-16/350Fc.

https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/iris/iris_documents/documents/subst/1025_summary.pdf#nameddest=cancerinhal. Accessed September 15, 2019.

2. Jinot J, Fritz JM, Vulimiri SV, Keshava N. Carcinogenicity of ethylene oxide: key findings and scientific issues. *Toxicol Mech Methods*. 2018;28(5):386-396. doi:10.1080/15376516.2017.1414343