



MEMO OF SUPPORT

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Intro. 495 – Waste Caps

OVERVIEW:

Intro. 495 will reduce the extreme concentration of private-sector waste facilities in three low-income communities of color, which handle almost 75% of New York City's waste. The bill will mandate modest reductions to the daily tonnages of garbage and construction waste trucked through these communities, timed to coincide with the opening of new marine transfer facilities throughout the City. This bill will also cap the share of waste handled by any other single community district in New York City, protecting other neighborhoods from future clustering of truck-intensive waste facilities.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT:

New York City generates 35,000 tons of putrescible and construction waste each day. Over 9,000 heavy-duty diesel trucks collect this waste and haul it to waste transfer stations. This system creates significant health risks throughout New York City, particularly in the South Bronx.

Diesel emissions are a major health concern in the South Bronx. There are 9 waste transfer stations in the South Bronx permitted to handle nearly 12,000 tons of waste each day. On a typical day, nearly 6,000 tons is hauled in and out of the South Bronx requiring about 1,400 diesel truck trips. Not surprisingly, asthma rates in the South Bronx are sky high – eight times the national average. So are rates of other diseases and illnesses tied to air and noise pollution.

Waste collection is so truck-intensive that it accounts for 20% of all the particulate matter (PM) emitted from heavy-duty trucks in New York City. A rapidly growing body of research has linked PM exposure with negative health effect such as decreased lung function, asthma, chronic bronchitis, heart disease, and premature death. These impacts are known to increase with proximity to emissions sources such as truck routes and highways.

This bill would eliminate several hundred truck trips in the South Bronx every day, improving health and quality of life in this community.

Intro 495 will ensure that truck miles are reduced where relief is most needed.

For these reasons, Health People supports Intro. 495.