

Testimony presented by the Morningside Heights-West Harlem Sanitation Coalition to the Sanitation Committee of the New York City Council hearing on Intro 495.

Friday February 13, 2015.

I am Marie Ledoux, a board member of the Sanitation Coalition.

Our organization has been affiliated with the NYC Environmental Justice Alliance and with the Organization of Waterfront Neighborhoods for more than twenty years. We are well aware of the unfair locating of waste transfer stations and the health hazards resulting from long term exposure to diesel fumes. On a trip to the South Bronx several years ago we saw a cluster of land-based waste transfer stations. More recently we attended a rally and press conference in North Brooklyn where the noise made by uninterrupted truck traffic made it almost impossible to hear the speakers.

When the SWMP was adopted in 2006 we were pleased to know that it included requirements for equity and fair –share of the burden of waste disposal as well as borough self sufficiency. The Sanitation Coalition is particularly eager to see these requirements put into practice because we live in Manhattan, the borough that does not handle any of its own solid waste, and “fair- share” will guarantee that no overburdened communities will be created in Manhattan.

The Sanitation Coalition believes that Intro 495 will make a significant difference in the quality of life in the overburdened communities. Eliminating several hundred truck trips daily in the South Bronx and North Brooklyn respectively will provide some meaningful relief to people who have endured more than their fair share for too long.

