

April 16, 2025

Dear Cleveland-Cliffs Executive Leadership, including James D. Graham, Traci L. Forrester, and Patrick Bloom,

We respectfully ask Cleveland-Cliffs to disclose whether it submitted an email request for a presidential exemption from new hazardous air pollution regulations for either of its Northwest Indiana steel mills (Burns Harbor and Indiana Harbor).

U.S. EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin [invited such email requests](#) on March 24, 2025. This invitation, based on an unprecedented use of Section 112(i)(4) of the Clean Air Act, offers exemption from nine key rules that would reduce toxic air pollution, including the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Integrated Iron and Steelmaking (Iron & Steel Rule). The Iron & Steel Rule limits emissions of hazardous air pollutants from steel mills, including lead, arsenic, and chromium. It would also substantially reduce emissions of fine particulate matter (2.5) creating up to \$3.7 billion in net public health benefits over the next ten years, according to U.S. EPA.

The Cleveland-Cliffs steel mills are two of the largest sources of air pollution in Northwest Indiana, an area that has been overburdened by dangerous and dirty air for decades. Residents of these communities and steel workers face elevated risks of respiratory illness, brain damage, and cancer from steel mills' emissions. These communities have a right to know if Cleveland-Cliffs availed itself of Administrator Zeldin's invitation to avoid the Iron & Steel Rule. The deadline for submissions was March 31, so we are calling on you to publicly state whether Cleveland-Cliffs submitted exemption requests within that time.

Please share a copy of any communications Cleveland-Cliffs sent to the email portal for compliance exemptions or elsewhere within the Trump administration in response to Administrator Zeldin's invitation.

Respectfully yours,

Dorreen Carey

President

Gary Advocates for Responsible Development  
(GARD)

Susan Thomas

Policy and Press Director

Just Transition Northwest Indiana

David Van Gilder

Senior Policy and Legal Director

Hoosier Environmental Council

Paula Brooks

Environmental Justice Director

Hoosier Environmental Council

Michael J. Zoeller

Senior Attorney

Conservation Law Center

Ellis Walton

Associate Attorney

Environmental Law & Policy Center

