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Concrete Evidence of a Double Standard

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Another blow has been struck against working-class communities that are struggling to protect their environment, as detailed by Edmonston Mayor Adam Ortiz and Cedar Heights Civic Association President Charles Gallion ["Another Inconvenient Truth," Close to Home, Jan. 27]. On Jan. 30, a zoning hearing examiner approved an exception to permit yet another concrete plant adjacent to Cedar Heights and near Fairmount Heights and Cheverly.

<u>Prince George's County</u> has not studied the health effects of concrete dust, but residents can tell you that it covers their homes and cars, as it has for years, and that asthma cases have increased. They can tell you that trucks rumbling through the community at all hours disrupt their ability to sleep and to enjoy any peace and quiet.

The examiner saw fit to ignore the part of the report filed by the Prince George's County Health Department that specifically recommended "that any decision on the special exception be deferred until air emissions can be estimated, recommendations can be made to mitigate truck traffic by MDE [Maryland Department of the Environment], and air monitoring can be obtained, analyzed, and evaluated."

What gives corporations and their political friends the right to ignore the lives and health of people in our communities? This environmental injustice would not happen in Bethesda.

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Co-Chair, Environmental Committee

Progressive Cheverly

Cheverly

LILLIE THOMPSON MARTIN

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