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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 24, 2012

Administrator Lisa Jackson  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Jackson:

I am writing to call your attention to an urgent matter regarding the potential sale of the RG Steel facilities in Yorkville and Martins Ferry, Ohio to Esmark, a company which has been working with the United Steelworkers to retain as many as 230 jobs at these Ohio facilities.

As you are aware, RG Steel filed bankruptcy on May 31, 2012 and is in the process of liquidating all of its assets. I understand that RG Steel's creditors expect a sale to close as early as today, whether that sale is to Esmark or to back-up bidders who will likely demolish the facility and liquidate all of its assets without retaining any jobs.

I understand that on July 30, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sent attorneys for RG Steel a letter outlining environmental concerns at the facilities. As stated in the letter, EPA, with the input of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio's EPA), has identified sixty-two solid waste management units and nine areas of concern at the Yorkville facility, and thirty-five solid waste management units and six areas of concern at the Martins Ferry facility. These may require further investigation and possible remediation.

I agree that any waste or contamination issues must be addressed, and pledge to work with you, the State of Ohio, and Esmark to find a constructive approach to the clean-up without endangering the sale of the site to potential job creators. It is my understanding that one such solution may be to approve Yorkville and Martins Ferry for prompt entry into Ohio's Voluntary Action program (VAP), which would represent an opportunity for a properly scaled and cost-effective remediation.

I encourage you and your staff to work constructively and swiftly with all parties to ensure a favorable outcome for the communities who rely on these facilities to provide economic activity and jobs. I stand by ready to assist you in any way possible.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator

cc: Richard Caruso, Chief Operating Officer, RG Steel  
Matthew Feldman, Shaunna Jones, Andrew Sorkin, Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP