



on 08/28/2000 06:16:42 PM

To: Group Civilrights@EPA

cc:

Subject:

I am Attorney Sandra Jaribu Hill with the Mississippi Workers Center for Human Rights and the Southern Regional Office of the Center for Constitutional Rights. Unfortunately, I recently returned from a conference in Zimbabwe and only received this notice of the deadline for comments today, August 28th. However, I could not let this important opportunity go by to remind those who have the power to provide more protection for embattled communities across the country to use that power to do just that. Title VI is one of the only statutory remedies available to individuals who have been exposed to toxic substances and been victims of illegal and disproportionate dumping in their communities. People of color cannot hope to gain proper redress if the laws are not there to provide such coverage. Title VI must be strengthened, no diluted. It must continue to be a vehicle for bringing forward charges against unscrupulous chemical companies who receive subsidies from the Federal Government and use those funds to discriminate against people of color in communities already suffering from poverty and systemic neglect.

I urge you the officials of EPA to abandon all thoughts of whittling down Title VI. Let it continue to be the weapon used by people of color and the poor in their efforts to rebuild their communities and protect their families from discriminatory dumping and racist facility sitings. Thanks for the opportunity to submit these comments.

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