

**From:** [Stephen Ward](#)  
**To:** [Thompson, Alexis](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment in Opposition to Use Variance for Narragansett Improvement Co. (Applicant) and Cumberland Farms, Inc. (Owner) at 338 Allens Avenue  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 5:06:05 PM

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Dear City of Providence Zoning Board of Review,

My name is Stephen Ward from Providence and I am submitting comments in opposition to Narragansett Improvement Co. and Cumberland Farms, Inc.'s application for use variance pursuant to Sections 900.B., 901, and 1200.B. of the Providence Zoning Ordinance, to use the property for non-waterfront dependent Materials Processing and storage of concrete, stone, aggregate and asphalt.

First, this variance would allow Narragansett Improvement Co. to continue its polluting activities on this additional parcel legally, which its been doing illegally for years. This is how companies get grandfathered in for their illegal and damaging behavior. The Zoning Board should not allow another company that violates zoning laws in the Port of Providence to get away with its illegal behavior without consequence. The Zoning Board has an opportunity to stop the trend of allowing the abuse of the South Providence and Washington Park communities for the benefit of companies.

Second, the Port of Providence is laden with polluting facilities that contribute to air pollution and noxious fumes. In Providence, asthma accounts for [13.7 out of every 1,000](#) children's emergency room visits. This land use further contributes to air pollution in the neighborhood - a clear example of environmental racism and government-sanctioned discrimination.

Third, supporting more polluting-generating activities is inconsistent with Rhode Island's Providence's Climate Justice Plan, which supports a vibrant, green Port of Providence that benefits all of its local residents.

I urge the City of Providence Zoning Board of Review to turn down the application for use variance and require the applicants to clean up their dumping ground.

Thank you,

Stephen Ward