

From: [Emma B](#)
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 9:22:23 AM

City of Providence Zoning Board of Review,

My name is Emma Bouton 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.

This project will undoubtedly increase pollution and impact the health of residents in the surrounding neighborhoods. South Providence and Washington Park are already disproportionately exposed to pollution compared to areas in the rest of the state. This is a classic example of environmental racism, since the neighborhoods' residents are predominantly low-income and Black and brown. These communities have some of the highest asthma rates in the country (asthma accounts for [13.7 out of every 1,000](#) children's emergency room visits in Providence). It is absolutely unacceptable to allow Narragansett Improvement Co., a company that has been illegally polluting the community for years, to continue this pollution on an additional parcel. 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 polluting industries, and I strongly urge the Board to turn down the application for use variance and require the applicants to clean up their dumping ground.

Thank you,
Emma Bouton