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The public health community in Chicago raises its voice today in solidarity today with the residents of the Southeast side fighting this textbook case of environmental racism.

The permit to pollute is indeed a civil rights issue-- for all Chicagoans to care about-- Black and Brown communities are not dumping grounds; Locating this polluter to a Black and Latinx working community that is already in the worst category—the worst ten percent-- of health and air quality as the City's own data shows--- will exacerbate chronic health conditions including asthma and heart disease. This would be a betrayal of our shared vision of closing the 9-year Chicago racial life expectancy gap.

I repeat what many hundreds of health professionals, researchers, students, academics and organizations have written in multiple public letters: Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Commissioner Allison Arwady, Deny The Permit, Stop General Iron.