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# CITY OF TORRANCE

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TIM GOODRICH  
COUNCILMAN

September 15, 2015

The Honorable Ted Lieu  
U.S. House of Representatives  
415 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lieu:

Thank you for recent actions prompting the U.S. Chemical Safety Board to investigate the cause of the February 18, 2015 explosion at the Exxon-Mobil refinery. While the USCSB investigation is still ongoing, I am writing to express concern about another serious incident that has occurred.

On Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015, a leak of Modified Hydrofluoric Acid, an extremely hazardous and potentially deadly chemical, was detected. To make matters worse, the refinery did not follow safety response protocols mutually established and agreed upon by Exxon-Mobil and the City of Torrance. Instead of placing an immediate phone call to the Torrance Fire Department for a hazmat response, Exxon-Mobil instead waited more than 30 minutes before sending an email. More than 2 hours after the leak was initially detected, a phone call was finally placed to the Torrance Fire Department.

In light of this new development, I am writing to inquire about the feasibility of the USCSB expanding the scope of their investigation to include the September 6, 2015 MHF leak and subsequent failed response.

If there is any way I may be of assistance in this request, please do not hesitate to contact me. I appreciate your efforts to make the health and safety of the residents of Torrance and the surrounding communities your highest priority.

Sincerely,

Tim Goodrich  
Council Member, City of Torrance

cc: The Honorable Maxine Waters