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**From:** John Heroff  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 8:58 PM  
**To:** envcomments  
**Cc:** Frank Pucci  
**Subject:** RMG Comments  
**Attachments:** RMG\_Comments\_1.29.21.pdf

Good Evening,

Please see the attached comments regarding the proposed RMG expansion from Alderwoman Sadlowski-Garza.

John Heroff

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# CITY COUNCIL CITY OF CHICAGO

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## **SUSAN SADLOWSKI GARZA ALDERWOMAN, 10TH WARD**

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Committee on Special Events, Cultural Affairs, and Recreation

January 29th, 2021

Dear Commissioner Arwady,

As Alderwoman of Chicago's 10th Ward I strongly request a delay in issuing any permit for RMG's proposed expansion until the federal complaint filed by the federal Department of Housing and Development which was referred to the U.S. Department of Justice can be reviewed. While I am proud of the work the Chicago Department of Health, Mayor Lightfoot, myself and others have done to improve the permitting process and create new rules for large recycling facilities, the fact remains that there are questions about the rezoning of the North Branch that facilitated this expansion that need to be addressed.

Chicago's planned manufacturing districts (PMDs) were originally created to ensure the City maintained a strong industrial base and a diversity of jobs. Yet when large real estate interests felt there was money to be made by driving industry out of the North Branch Corridor, the City of Chicago under the previous mayoral administration created a "modernization" process to remove manufacturing and industry from that corridor and facilitated agreements with large industrial users, including General Iron, to relocate to the South and West sides. At the time, I voted with many of my colleagues in opposition to this deal. Now, the U.S. Department of Justice has now opened an investigation into this same rotten deal that myself and many of my colleagues questioned at the time.

This last summer, I strongly urged the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to delay issuing any permits through their regulatory process until such time as meaningful public comment could be provided. At the time, the IEPA rejected my request and instead chose to issue a permit after a virtual town hall that did not include Spanish translation despite the heavy Latinx population of my Ward. The IEPA is now being investigated by the U.S. EPA's External Civil Rights Compliance Office for possible violations of my constituents' civil rights.

While we cannot undo the "modernization" of the North Branch corridor, we can delay any further permitting for facilities relocated by this rezoning until the pending investigation by the Department of Justice has completed. I strongly believe that the interests of health, fairness, and transparency necessitate a delay in issuing any permits associated with these zoning changes while this investigation is completed.