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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3003

June 20, 2012

Ms. Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460-0003

Dear Administrator Jackson,

I write today to urge the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to investigate incidences of medical waste washing up on Long Beach Island, New Jersey. Last weekend beaches were closed on Saturday June 16, 2012 from Barnegat Light south to Ship Bottom on Long Beach Island due to the discovery of unregulated, home-generated insulin syringes at various sections of Island beaches.

While the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP) is currently investigating the issue, the EPA's expertise can be used in the investigation. Some in the media have speculated that the waste may have come from New York. If this is true multiple jurisdictions may be involved and the EPA's federal reach could be needed to further the investigation.

Saturday's discovery comes on the heels of the discovery of a child coming in contact with an insulin syringe in the sand dunes of Brant Beach, New Jersey (also on Long Beach Island) on May 27th. New Jersey's coastal communities and economies rely upon a strong tourism industry in order to thrive. During the summer months this becomes even more prevalent, as even a day of closed beaches has a ripple effect that impacts the entire coastal economy.

The threat of unregulated medical waste from other States washing up on New Jersey's shores can have a catastrophic impact on coastal communities if it drives away even a small percentage of tourists. I thank you for your time and appreciate your attention to this important issue. Your staff may contact Jeff Brabant of my staff if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Jon Runyan
Member of Congress

JR/jb

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