

*concerns w/ using
census data*

*Citizens for a
Better Brockton*

Michelle A. Reid
Director of Environmental Justice
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA. 02114

Dear Director Reid:

I am one of the original founders of the Citizens for a Better Brockton group which began in 1996. As you know, we are into our nineteenth year of fighting to keep a power plant from locating in a heavily populated neighborhood where many minority residents live.

The City of Brockton qualifies in all categories listed in the Environmental Justice Policy signed by former governor Deval Patrick. One might think we would be protected by that ruling but that is not the case.

After listening to Representative Dubois explain how the companies can use the census figures from any town or city to have a particular area declared not an environmental justice area, it became perfectly clear to me that this is but another way of 'jerrymandering' to get the area where they wish to put polluting business declared eligible for their project.

I fully support the effort you and Representative Dubois are using to get some legislation passed which would protect these areas. However, if there is no language which prohibits these industries from using the census as a method to get the figures they need to locate in any neighborhood they choose, the same cities and towns which are already overburdened with pollution will continue to be the victims of more dirty industry.

I wish you well in your efforts and hope you will take the above fact as one part of the agenda which we hope to get a favorable ruling on to protect our people.

Very truly yours,


Virginia Jeppson

Cc: Rep. Michelle Dubois