



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 18 2015

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter dated October 23, 2015, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concerning the safety of recycled rubber tire crumbs that are used in synthetic turf fields in the United States.

We know that athletes, parents, caregivers, and communities are concerned about synthetic fields and want answers to some questions that have recently been raised about the safety of the tire crumbs used on these fields. In particular, people want to understand if their children are being exposed and what, if any, health risks these exposures might present.

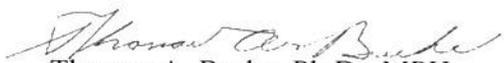
Currently, we have information from a number of limited studies and they do not show an elevated health risk from playing on fields with synthetic turf containing tire crumb. However, these studies have various limitations and do not comprehensively address the concerns about children's health risks from exposures to tire crumb.

To address these concerns, the EPA has been working to better understand potential exposures and fill in some of the data gaps. We are also engaged with the State of California as it conducts a comprehensive evaluation of tire crumb. We anticipate that the work of the federal government, combined with the work of the State of California and other state partners, will enable states, communities and parents to make better informed decisions for their communities and families.

Since both the information and science are rapidly moving forward, we would like to offer an in-person briefing to explain the state of the scientific studies, the important data gaps that exist, and the current work we are coordinating with our federal partners and the State of California.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Christina J. Moody in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at moody.christina@epa.gov or (202) 564-0260.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Burke, Ph.D., MPH
Deputy Assistant Administrator and
EPA Science Advisor