# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 12, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20210

The Honorable Loren Sweatt
Acting Assistant Secretary
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
200 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington. D.C. 20210

Dear Administrator Pruitt and Secretary Sweatt:

We write to encourage your agencies to ensure that all of Greif Inc.'s facilities that refurbish barrels are in compliance with environmental, hazmat transportation, and workplace safety requirements. Whistleblower accounts and news reports raise concerns that the company may be operating with dangerous practices throughout the organization. Given concerning findings documented at sites in Wisconsin, all facilities connected to Greif's barrel refurbishing business warrant prompt investigation to potentially save lives and prevent serious environmental harm.

Greif facilities in Wisconsin have been cited by federal and state agencies for various offenses and the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the Department of Transportation have ongoing investigations and reviews of these facilities. The company has been cited for 15 serious OSHA violations at its facility in Milwaukee, WI.[1] The Department of Transportation recently issued a notice of probable violation citing 16 violations of federal hazardous materials transportation law and regulations. EPA's investigation is ongoing and it is worth noting that the Wisconsin media has reported that two EPA investigators became ill immediately after their inspection of the facility in St. Francis, Wisconsin. [2] Finally, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has cited the company for 19 violations.[3]

The various penalties assessed at the Wisconsin facilities, along with the serious whistleblower allegations and media reports regarding the company's operations, raise concerns that similar violations may also be occurring at the company's other barrel refurbishing operations in other states across the country. In fact, the Department of Transportation recently expanded its investigation to additional facilities operated by the company in other states. In addition, whistleblower and media reports have raised potential safety and environmental violations at

---

[1] http://www.jsonline.com/story/news/investigations/2017/04/21/barrel-company-facing-fine-exposing-workers-hazardous-chemicals-unsafe-practices/100760340/

[2] http://www.jsonline.com/story/news/investigations/2017/06/30/epa-investigators-get-sick-barrel-plants/435413001/

[3] http://www.jsonline.com/story/news/investigations/2017/07/25/wisconsin-dnr-says-milwaukee-industrial-barrel-plants-broke-environmental-laws/502524001/

facilities in Arkansas, Tennessee, and Indiana. [4] At the bottom of this letter, we have included a list of all companies that are owned by Greif and the locations where they recondition barrels in the United States. The Department of Transportation is investigating all of these facilities, and we urge you to follow suit and investigate all of them promptly.

Sincerely,

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Joe Donnelly
United States Senator

[4] https://projects.jsonline.com/news/2017/2/15/environmental-problems-plague-the-barrel-reconditioning-business.html

| Company | Location |
|---|---|
| Kearny Steel Container | Newark, NJ |
| Chambers Drum Company, Inc | Fairburn, GA |
| Container Life Cycle | Ludlow, KY |
| Drumco of Tennessee EarthMinded | Memphis, TN |
| Mid-America Steel Drum Co, Inc. EarthMinded | Milwaukee, WI |
| Mid-America Steel Drum Co, Inc. EarthMinded | St. Francis, WI |
| Mid-America Steel Drum Co, Inc. EarthMinded | Oak Creek, WI |
| Indianapolis Drum Service EarthMinded | Indianapolis, IN |
| Drumco of Arkansas EarthMinded | Arkadelphia, AR |
| West Texas Drum LTD | Baytown, TX |
| West Texas Drum LTD | Odessa, TX |
| CMS, LLC - Los Angeles | Industry, CA |
| CMS, LLC - Bay Area | Hayward, CA |
| CMS, LLC - Portland (Steel Drum) | Portland, OR |
| CMS, LLC - Portland (IBC & Plastic Recycling) | Portland, OR |