Brian J. Thomas

Councilman

Borough of Neptune City

106 West Sylvania Avenue

Neptune City, New Jersey 07753

October 8, 2021

The Honorable Christopher Smith

United States Congressman

4th Congressional District of New Jersey

112 Village Center Drive, 2nd Floor

Freehold, New Jersey 07728

**RE: EPA/FDA Information Request**

Dear Congressman Smith:

It is with hope that this letter finds you well and that you might be able to aide in easing concerns which rose to our attention during a virtual information forum on October 7, 2021 regarding the **Nylabone pet supply facility located at 85 West Sylvania Avenue, Borough of Neptune City and resident complaints.**

For background, Nylabone and its parent company, **Central Garden & Pet Corporation**, have been a mainstay within our Borough for decades. In recent years, there have been complaints from a segment of residents neighboring the facility pertaining to odors emanating from the plant as it processes and creates pet food products.

In an attempt to eliminate some of the odor, the company had placed a filtration system on its roof prior to my election to Council. However, odors have persisted leading to more recent, wide-ranging complaints to the Borough, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the Monmouth County Board of Health.

Upon hearing these concerns, Mayor Andrew Wardell, Councilwoman Danielle Pappas and I begin proactively contacting our appropriate State Officials as well as agencies like NJDEP and the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) in order for them to speak with and answer questions directly from Neptune City residents. This led to the aforementioned virtual discussion forum and the reason for my letter to your office.

During the forum questions were submitted which sought confirmation that there were no harmful byproducts emanating from the facility as it processed pet food products. Further, it was asked of NJDEP to confirm what chemicals were located at the facility’s location. NJDEP stated in their answer that they did not have that information readily available and that the only answer that they could provide was that the company was in compliance with inspections.

This lack of readily available information and ability to provide it from NJDEP raised the concerns of our Mayor, State Officials and residents who partook in the forum. Now, this is not to suggest that there are harmful components whatsoever dispersing into the air as the facility operates, but all the same we believe that these concerns should be addressed to provide assurance of such for our residents.

With that, we are hoping for your assistance in contacting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration and/or any appropriate federal entity which could offer that assurance.

I greatly thank you for your attention and for any assistance your office can provide.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Thomas

Councilman

Borough of Neptune City