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January 13, 2023

Ms. Sharon Martin
Deputy Secretary for Public Affairs
North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
217 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27603

Via Email

Dear Ms. Martin:

Thank you for the recent discussion to address the Secretary's Environmental Justice and Equity Board (Board) letter to the NC DEQ regarding the special session on biomass and the Enviva Ahoskie Draft Permit application process. We appreciated the opportunity to review the November 22nd letter from the Board related to Enviva and the wood pellet industry. Like the DEQ, we take Environmental Justice concerns very seriously which is why our environmental permitting efforts are conducted with full transparency, we deploy best-in-class environmental control technologies to minimize our environmental footprint, and take meaningful action to build relationships within the communities where we operate.

As DEQ noted in a November 17th presentation to the Board regarding Enviva facilities, "emissions have declined even as production increased" and that DEQ has not received a dust complaint regarding Northampton since 2015. Enviva attributes this to our strong commitment to environmental compliance and the implementation of best-in-class technology and robust community engagement. The Board's letter demonstrates there is a gap between the public perception about the impact our facilities have on the local community, and the facts on the ground.

At Enviva, we strive to be a good neighbor and an integral member of the community at each of our facilities. We have a dedicated community relations team whose core responsibility is to build meaningful relationships in each community and engage with local leaders to identify opportunities to give back and provide support. Our community relations team is charged with meeting and listening to local leaders, clergy, neighbors, and the overall community, to understand their concerns, and elevate issues for the company to review potential mitigation options. We believe our efforts represent the best of community relations and go above-and-beyond what most manufacturers do; however, as the Board's letter outlines there is always opportunity for improvement.

In that light, Enviva will undertake the following actions:

- Engage with local Ahoskie officials to schedule a meeting with representatives of the Meherrin Tribe so that we 1) Lay the foundation for a productive relationship, 2) Understand the Tribe's concerns, 3) Provide a briefing on our operations, and 4) Identify action items important to the community to partner on.
- Review Enviva Ahoskie's fugitive dust plan and determine if any enhancements or adjustments are appropriate in light of the facilities operations, weather patterns, permit compliance, community input, and the Board's letter.
- Host a listening session with leaders and representatives in Richmond, Sampson, and Northampton County so that Enviva can receive direct feedback on its operations, continue to build a trusting relationship, and demystify Enviva operations.
- Work with Ahoskie representatives to identify a local nonprofit organization that could, in partnership with Enviva, review Enviva operations pre-expansion and then post-expansion and provide feedback on the plant as it completes its transition.

In addition to the above listed items, Enviva will also be convening a meeting of leadership to better review some of the issues outlined in the Board's letter to DEQ.

As we discussed, Enviva has a robust community relations program with a dedicated community relations associate. Each community in North Carolina is unique and has its own distinct set of needs; in concert with local partners Enviva concentrates engagement around three key themes: 1) Nurturing youth and education, 2) Enhancing community services, and 3) Supporting our most vulnerable neighbors. In 2022, Enviva sponsored or participated in several dozen community focused events in the Enviva mid-Atlantic operating footprint and spent over \$200,000 on related activities. Examples of events or partnerships include an Ahoskie neighborhood listening session, Northampton NAACP meeting, sponsorship of AED devices at local churches and senior centers, youth and collegiate athletics, food pantries, faith-based initiatives, and safe spaces for teens. As an appendix to this letter, we have included a sample of press clippings from North Carolina-related to events or partnerships Enviva was involved in 2022.

Enviva's community relations email is prominently displayed on the company website for members of the community to contact Enviva directly. For reference the community email box is community@envivabiomass.com.

Enviva has seen its emission profile decline at three facilities in North Carolina, which is attributable in part to the permitting process and a transparent working relationship that has been developed with the DEQ. We intend to install additional controls and expand the fourth plant -- Ahoskie -- as prescribed by the permit once it has been issued. Enviva takes feedback seriously and we appreciate the DEQ's comments on Environmental Justice and public perception, and we look forward to working with DEQ to resolve the matter.

Sincerely,



Yana Kravtsova
Executive Vice President
International Market Development and Public Affairs

CC: Mr. Michael Abraczinskas, Director, Division of Air Quality, NC DEQ
Mr. Michael Pjetraj, Deputy Director, Division of Air Quality, NC DEQ
Mr. Jason Eberstein, Vice President, Government and Community Relations, Enviva
Mr. Stephen Stroud, Senior Director, Environmental Affairs, Enviva

Local North Carolina Press Coverage Related to Enviva Community Partnerships:

- **Roanoke Daily Rapids** published an online article highlighting how Enviva partnered with Northampton County NAACP to [distribute 125 turkeys](#) to representatives from several area churches who in turn delivered them to families.
- The **Roanoke-Chowan News-Herald** mentioned Enviva in an online story about the [Ahoskie Youth Center opening](#).
- **The Daily Reflector** mentioned Enviva in an article, entitled "[New playground set to arrive in Faison this week](#)," for donating the play cushion for added safety.
- **The Sampson Independent** included Enviva in an online article, entitled "[Playground cleaned, promises kept](#)" for Enviva's donation of mulch to the local playground.
- Both the **Richmond County Daily Journal** and **The Richmond Observer** published an article mentioning Enviva's contributions to and participation in Habitat for Humanity of the NC Sandhills.
- Daily Journal: [New Habitat home completed in Hamlet; volunteer to move in](#)
- Observer: ['A DREAM COME TRUE': Habitat dedicates new home in Hamlet](#)
- **The Sampson Independent** ran an online story featuring Enviva's pilot student outreach program in Sampson, entitled "[Building a Bridge to Talent](#)."
- Enviva was mentioned in an online article in **The Richmond County Daily Journal**, entitled "[United Way reaches campaign goal; first time in several years](#)."
- Enviva was mentioned in an online article in the **Roanoke-Chowan News-Herald** for its support of the [Northampton 4th of July celebration](#).
- Enviva's Ahoskie air permit renewal and the forthcoming permit hearing, was covered positively in the local paper, **Roanoke-Chowan News-Herald**, entitled "[Enviva eyes expansion at Ahoskie pellet mill](#)." The Ahoskie [air permit renewal article](#) was also picked-up in the trade outlet, **Paper Advance**.
- Enviva participated in the North Carolina Clean Energy Youth Apprenticeship Program held at Halifax Community College. Enviva's participation was covered in an [online article](#) in **RRSpin**, entitled "[Enviva leadership participates in clean energy apprenticeship program](#)" as well as [in print](#) in the **Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald**.
- **Richmond County Daily Journal** included a photo and write-up on Enviva's partnership with Faith Assembly Church and Richmond County Aging Services to [purchase fans for seniors citizens](#) during last week's heat wave.
- **The Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald** featured Enviva in an online article, entitled "[Enviva participates in youth STEAM summit](#)." See Enviva's social media post [here](#).
- Enviva was mentioned in **The Daily Journal** for our support and sponsorship in the [11th Annual Community Safe event](#) in Dobbins Heights, NC.
- **The Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald** mentioned Enviva in an online article, entitled "[Enviva helps sponsor golf tournament](#)."
- **RRSpin** ran an online article, entitled "[Enviva joins partnership for AEDs in Northampton churches](#)."
- **Northampton County** is appreciative of Enviva's assistance with the AED coaching program at local churches. [Roanoke-Chowan News-Herald](#), [Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald](#) and [Grab Market News](#) ran online articles on the partnership.

- **The Laurinburg Exchange** highlighted Enviva in an online article, entitled “[Supporting future students at RCC](#)” which was also picked up by [NewsBreak](#).
- Enviva was mentioned in **RRSpin** for our participation in helping the local Weldon police and fire departments obtain [a utility vehicle for emergency calls](#).
- A similar story was posted in **Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald**, entitled “[Weldon PD, FD receive utility vehicle](#).”
- **The Sampson Independent** mentioned Enviva in an article, entitled “[Twenty years of the Sampson Classic](#).”
- **The Sampson Independent** covered our [Sampson Plant Manager, George Handler](#), engaging with and recruiting students at Sampson Community College in an article, entitled “[Enviva reaches out to students](#).”
- **The Pilot** published an [in-depth piece on the Wood Pellet Industry and Enviva](#), entitled “*Pellets Bring Controversy, Money, and Jet Fuel*.” After weeks of discussion and educating this reporter on our industry, we believe our efforts resulted in a very balanced piece.
- **The Roanoke-Chowan News-Herald** ran an online article on Enviva’s participation in a local food distribution over Thanksgiving, with the headline “[Turkey Time!](#).”
- **Richmond County Daily Journal** included Enviva in a [print and online article](#) entitled “[Turkeys distributed in Dobbins Heights](#).”
- **RRSpin** featured Enviva in an online article, entitled “[Enviva joins community organizations, Wray for turkey distribution](#).”
- **Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald** featured Enviva in an online article, entitled “[Enviva donates turkeys in Northampton](#)”