

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

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GROUP RELEASES “WAITING IN A CESSPOOL” Calls for Prompt Action to Evacuate Remaining Residents

Today the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League called upon officials in Augusta to take immediate steps to move residents living in the contaminated Hyde Park neighborhood to safer housing. In a letter addressed to Mayor Deke Copenhaver, the group requested that the city use funds already appropriated to protect the health and safety of approximately sixty families still living in Hyde Park and, as soon as possible, locate additional funds to complete the project.

Rev. Charles Utley, an Augusta resident and a Campaign Director for the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, said in the letter, “The remaining residents Hyde Park seek only justice and fulfillment of promises made. We are appealing to you to use the power of your office to protect public health and safety. We started this project, let’s finish it.”

To illustrate the plight of residents, the League produced a seven-minute video essay entitled “Waiting in a Cesspool” which tells the story of those who have been left behind. The video essay can be viewed at <http://www.BREDL.org>

The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League was founded in 1984 and today is a six-state organization dedicated to public health and environmental protection. The League has had an office in Augusta since 2002.

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