

June 5, 2026

The Honorable Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
 US Representative, WA-3rd District
 DC: 1431 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
 Kelso/Vancouver: 360-695-6292

RE: Port Townsend Paper Company — The Last Active Kraft Mill in Washington After Longview — V_1.17

Dear Congresswoman Gluesenkamp Perez,

I write with a simple and direct request: we want Port Townsend Paper Company to make safety, health, and the environment their number one priority. Not their second priority. Not a consideration balanced against production schedules and profit margins. Number one.

You represent Longview. You have already written to Nippon Dynawave about worker pay in the aftermath of the May 26, 2026 disaster. I am writing to you because Port Townsend Paper Company — the only remaining active kraft mill in Washington State after Longview and the PCA Wallula shutdown — operates the identical process that killed 11 of your constituents' coworkers.

PTPC operates a kraft pulp and paper mill on 450 acres bordering Port Townsend Bay, five miles from residential neighborhoods in Jefferson County. The mill produces 950–1,000 tons per day using the kraft process — the same chemistry that killed 11 workers in Longview, Washington on May 26, 2026, when a white liquor tank imploded at the Nippon Dynawave mill in the deadliest industrial accident in modern Washington State history.

PTPC's documented compliance record is a matter of public record in US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s EPA Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) database (FRS ID: 110000490326):

- Clean Air Act: High Priority Violation every single quarter for the past three years — 12 consecutive quarters
- Clean Water Act: documented spills into Port Townsend Bay including: 800 gallons of untreated process wastewater (November 2021–March 2022, fine \$27,000); 114,000 gallons of untreated wastewater near Glen Cove (April 2025, fine \$20,000 — less than 9 cents per gallon); and 1,000 gallons of condensed water (January 2025) — plus two additional Ecology penalties issued in 2023 for 2022 water quality violations; two new formal enforcement orders April and May 2026
- Hazardous Waste (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)): June 2025 inspection found 9 violations including emergency preparedness and prevention procedure failures
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES): permit expired October 2018; renewed May 2025 after 6+ years on administrative extension
- Total penalties all statutes five years: less than \$100,000

- Daily discharge of effluent (liquid waste or wastewater discharged into the environment): 12 million gallons into Port Townsend Bay — the largest discharger in Jefferson County

In 2024, the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) specifically studied Port Townsend and found hydrogen sulfide, methyl mercaptan, dimethyl sulfide, and dimethyl disulfide measured near PTPC above US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) chronic health reference concentrations. The Washington State Department of Health guidance still tells residents these odors are 'rarely at levels that harm health.' The federal science says otherwise — for our specific community.

What I Am Asking:

- Request that the US Chemical Safety Board (CSB) explicitly include PTPC and all remaining Washington kraft mills in the scope of the Longview investigation, with interim safety recommendations issued before the final report
- Initiate or support Congressional oversight hearings on the federal regulatory gap that exempts white liquor from US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Risk Management Program — the exemption that left no public safety plan at Nippon Dynawave, and leaves none at PTPC today
- Advocate for US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to add sodium hydroxide and sodium sulfide at kraft mill concentrations to the Risk Management Program list of extremely hazardous substances requiring public worst-case release scenarios
- Support legislation creating a federal Worker Safety Report Fast-Track requirement — worker reports of structural integrity concerns at hazardous chemical storage must trigger mandatory inspection within 30 days. The Longview sinkhole report went unanswered for two months. Eleven people died.

The workers of Jefferson County and the residents of Port Townsend are counting on federal accountability. Thank you for your leadership on Longview. I hope you will extend it to Port Townsend.

Respectfully,

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