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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

August 27, 2021

### *Formosa Plastics – May the Door Hit You on the Way Out*

ST. JAMES, LA – There have been no more uncertain times in our community: social justice issues, untimely weather events, climate change, and the many untold stories a global pandemic. COVID-19 showed the world some of what we have experienced for over 400 years in the historically disadvantaged communities along the Mississippi River.

But what could be more tone deaf than profit and pollution without considering human impact and environmental sustainability? Shame on the leadership at the [Greater Baton Rouge Industry Alliance, Inc. \(GBRIA\)](#) in their recent appeal supporting yet another failing industrial sector. In GBRIA's appeal, written by Connie Fabre, there was not one mention of family values, health, education, culture, housing, tradition, equality, and spirituality. There was not a mention of environmental stewardship or caring for plants and nonhuman species. To us at least, Connie's appeal was rooted in rage, entitlement, greed, and DESPERATION. In true Karen, [Connie](#), Tomāto, Tomāto fashion, Ms. Connie Fabre allowed herself to become the victim of Formosa.

Connie, have you not heard President Joe Biden declare that public health is infrastructure? And the pandemic exposed the dire need to rebuild stronger, healthier, and more resilient communities. In addition, the need for a diversified economy has never been more important.

"Its way past time for Formosa, our modern-day death sentence to pack up and leave. Formosa will not only be a death sentence for the 5th District of St. James Parish but to parishes throughout the Gulf Coast and the region," [Sharon Lavigne, 2021 Goldman Prize Recipient](#).

We encourage the Greater Baton Rouge Industry Alliance, Inc. to prioritize the needs of vulnerable descendant communities and to join hands with us in being both environmental stewards and real economic developers.

Respectfully yours,  
[Rise St. James](#)

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