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A.F.G.E. Local 607 is the Union that represents bargaining unit employees who work at FCI Elkton. Bill Meek, Vice President of AFGE Local 607 issued the following statement in response to the release of the NIOSH report.

“This report verifies our concerns about our staff being exposed over the years to these dangerous toxins. The Federal Prison Industries, also known as UNICOR made millions of dollars recycling these computer parts at the expense of exposing our staff to chemicals which could lead to serious health problems decades down the road They started this recycling program knowing that there were dangerous chemicals in these computer monitors and willfully chose to do so without first putting even the most elementary safety measures in place. The thing that baffles us is that even when test results came back showing exposure, they still did not do the right thing. They went from having nothing in place to putting in an unfiltered exhaust system that blew the contaminants out of the roof apparently only to be reabsorbed thru the institutions air handling systems back into the factory and adjacent buildings. Finally, six years down the road they decide to put in a glass breaking booth that still was not optimal. The chip removal operation that ran for over a year in another factory did not have an exhaust system initially and then they made a make shift exhaust out of PVC pipe. Who knows how many staff have been exposed to this stuff. The operation should never have started without a standard health hazzard evaluation taking place. We are anxiously awaiting the final report that is to be issued by the Office of Inspector General concerning their investigation into this matter. We also need to ensure that our staff receive appropriate remedy and continue to seek legal advice to insure that happens. The people responsible for this need to be held accountable and we will continue to work with our congressional representatives to make sure they are.”