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## Sommer accuses LaFalce of inaction on nuclear waste issue

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Congressional candidate Brett Sommer held a press conference at Simonds's in Lockport on Thursday. The conference was held in response to a recent USA Today article pointing to several Western New York sites that contain nuclear waste. Sommer accused his opponent, John LaFalce, of failing the people of the Buffalo-Niagara Falls Region by not taking action to clean these sites even after finding out about them.

"The federal government has known about these sites for 30 years," said Sommer. "Look at the number of residents that suffer from cancer, respiratory and kidney diseases as a result. Why hasn't Congressman LaFalce done anything to resolve this problem? - Because it doesn't effect him."

Sommer continued, "John, when are you going to stop pretending that you represent this district? Thousands have suffered because you don't care!"

The USA Today identified ten sites in the 29th Congressional District that are considered to be health risks as a result of nuclear waste left here from past nuclear production. Those sites include:

- Buffalo - American Car and Foundry/Buffalo Works
- Buffalo - B&L Steel
- Buffalo - Buflovak
- Lockport - Simonds Saw and Steel
- Niagara Falls - Titanium Alloys

- Manufacturing
- Niagara Falls - Electro Metallurgical
- Niagara Falls - Hooker Chemical
- Niagara Falls - Niagara Smelting Division, Stauffer Chemical
- Tonawanda - Linde Air Products Division
- Tonawanda - Haist Disposal Site/Ashland Oil/Seaway Industrial Park

Sommer also mentioned the recent Ashland Cleanup in which then Tonawanda Supervisor Carl Calabrese and State Assemblyman Robin Schimminger initiated the call for cleanup.

"Even when Ashland was discovered, John did not act," said Sommer. "It took Legislator Swanick to publicly blast LaFalce until he would do something."

The congressional challenger highlighted LaFalce's inability to act by noting that he has not yet made any comments or statements regarding the recently published findings. Sommer also called for a full-scale federal investigation.

"These problems will not simply go away if we ignore them," said Sommer. "A congressional leader needs to take action to protect and represent the interests of his constituency, that is why we elect one. As you Congressman, I will call for an intensive federal investigation, and compensate those who suffered as a result."

Sommer also expressed his desire

to establish and enact a comprehensive federal plan to identify and address other sites throughout the nation that may contain nuclear contaminants.

"This is a problem that Western New York and our entire nation must address," said Sommer. "By developing an overall plan to combat this problem, we can solve it much more quickly and efficiently than by our current piecemeal approach."