

April 10, 2008

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senator
Hart Senate Office Building
Suite 112
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boxer:

The co-signers to this letter – environmental, farm, and food safety organizations - support you in your efforts to confront the serious problems inextricably associated with sewers and sewage treatment. The treated effluent is now known to bring a vast array of wastewater contaminants, including personal care products and pharmaceuticals, into our nation's water. Sewage sludge, the unavoidable byproduct of sewage treatment, is poisoning our food.

Increasing the level of treatment of sewage cannot resolve the immense pollution from sewers. What can?

Prevention – the cost effective solution – is the place to start: prevent pharmaceuticals and other hazardous waste from entering the sewer in the first place, prevent the exploitation of the myth that wastewater treatment and its associated technologies can fix any problem, and prevent the poisoning of our food supply with sewage sludge.

We applaud you and your colleagues on the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works for taking this first step in a long overdue examination of the policies that have led us to the appalling situation we are now in with respect to the degraded quality of our recreational and drinking water supplies, and the contamination of our food supply from the products and byproducts of wastewater treatment.

Co-signers

1. Resource Institute for Low Entropy Systems (RILES)
2. Center for Food Safety
3. Farm Aid
4. Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund
5. Toxics Action Center Campaigns

Continued

6. Ocean State Action
7. Pennsylvania Farmers Union
8. Organic Consumers Association
9. Clean Water Action
10. International Center for Technology Assessment
11. Pennsylvania Farmers Union
12. Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
13. Rincon Point Foundation
14. Sustainable South Bronx
15. Bedford Sludge Action Committee
16. Mothers on the Move
17. Neighbors Against Toxic Sludge
18. Citizens for a Future New Hampshire
19. Coalition of Virginia Counties
20. Help For Sewage Victims
21. Safe Food and Fertilizer
22. The Commonwealth Coalition
23. Cornucopia Network of New Jersey
24. Sludge Watch
25. Be Safe Not Sorry Community Action Group
26. West End Revitalization Association
27. Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship

Continued

28. Center for Community Alternatives
29. People's Alliance for Clean Energy
30. Shenandoah County Alliance Against Toxic Sludge
31. Newberry Community Services District
32. Nuclear Information and Resource Service
33. Toxics Information Project (TIP)
34. New Hampshire Clean Water Action
35. Minnesota Clean Water Action
36. South Dakota Clean Water Action
37. Vermont PIRG (VPIRG)
38. Hawthorne Valley Association
39. Protect All Children's Environment
40. Citizens for Sludge-Free Land
41. Concerned Citizens of Tillery
42. Eagle Bear Farm
43. North Carolina Environmental Justice Network
44. Southside Concerned Citizen
45. Coalition for Environmental Responsibility & Education through Synergy
46. Watauga Watershed Alliance
47. Friends of the Deep River
48. Scotland County Of Tomorrow (SCOT)
49. Granville Non-violent Action Team

Continued

50. Carolina Concerned Citizens
51. Mitchell County Citizens for Clean Air
52. New Jersey Environmental Federation
53. Friends of Rich Fork Creek
54. Neighborhood Pesticide Action Committee
55. Isle of Wight Citizens Association
56. Nidel Law, PLLC
57. Genesis Farm
58. Blackwater Nottoway Riverkeeper Program
59. Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice
60. Sweet Paradise Farm
61. Concerned Citizens of Green Twp, Ohio
62. E.F. Schumacher Society
63. Dogwood Creek Farm
64. Sweet Paradise Farm
65. Atlanta Women's Action for New Directions
66. Lower Milford Township Recreation and Open Space Board
67. Alamance County Chapter of Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
68. Newberry Community Services District, CA

For more information about co-signers, please contact, Laura Orlando, RILES,
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