

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.

Cc: Environment and Public Works Committee members

Co-signers

1. Resource Institute for Low Entropy Systems (RILES)
2. Farm Aid
3. Ocean State Action

continued

4. Center for Food Safety
5. New Jersey Environmental Federation
6. Toxics Action Center Campaigns
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

continued

26. West End Revitalization Association
27. Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship
28. Center for Community Alternatives
29. Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund
30. People's Alliance for Clean Energy
31. Shenandoah County Alliance Against Toxic Sludge
32. Newberry Community Services District
33. Nuclear Information and Resource Service
34. Toxics Information Project (TIP)
35. New Hampshire Clean Water Action
36. Minnesota Clean Water Action
37. South Dakota Clean Water Action
38. Vermont PIRG (VPIRG)
39. Hawthorne Valley Association
40. Protect All Children's Environment
41. Citizens for Sludge-Free Land
42. Concerned Citizens of Tillery
43. Eagle Bear Farm
44. North Carolina Environmental Justice Network
45. Southside Concerned Citizen
46. Coalition for Environmental Responsibility & Education through Synergy
47. Watauga Watershed Alliance

continued

48. Friends of the Deep River
49. Scotland County Of Tomorrow (SCOT)
50. Granville Non-violent Action Team
51. Carolina Concerned Citizens
52. Mitchell County Citizens for Clean Air
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. Rural Advancement Foundation International – RAFI USA
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

