

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

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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

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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

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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

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