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JOHN KERRY
MASSACHUSETTS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

New Bedford

14.01

OTHER:

RECEIVED

MAR 07 1996

One Bowdoin Square
Tenth Floor
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 565-8519

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

March 5, 1996



SDMS DocID 000200880

Mr. John DeVillars
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region I
JFK Building
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

Dear Mr. DeVillars:

I am forwarding to you a copy of a letter from a constituent in New Bedford regarding her concern about the disposal of PCB laden materials from the New Bedford Harbor Superfund site.

I would appreciate your looking into this matter and sending a copy of your findings to Jennifer Miller in my Boston office.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

John F. Kerry
United States Senator

JFK/jmm

ACTION:	L. MURPHY
	9800065
DATE:	3/27/96
CC:	RA
	A. Fozza
	K. Conroy
	P. Fitzmonns
	H. Laine
	J. Hunter

RECEIVED FEB 21 1996

492 North Front Street
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02746
08 February 1996

JN

Senator John F. Kerry
421 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

I am deeply disturbed about the EPA's uninformed and ill-advised decision to dump PCBs in heavily populated Ward 2 in New Bedford's North End. Further, I am intensely concerned about the fate of city residents who evidently don't have the ethnic background or per capita income required to be citizens with the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The hasty decision to bury PCBs is as ludicrous as the previous notion to burn them. Would you clean your house by stuffing all the trash under the rug? Of course not. Then why "clean" a river by burying all the toxins in our neighborhood? We need only to look at Sullivan's Ledge on Hathaway Road to see that burying toxins is a temporary and hazardous patch on an infected wound that surely will reopen, fester, pollute and kill.

Contrary to the EPA's unfounded belief that this area is uninhabited, thousands of residents surround this lagoon. Conceivably, a student at recess at the Ottiwell Elementary School could hit a baseball into this dump site. The majority of these people are of Portuguese descent. Many are the elderly who have lived and worked in the factories that have since closed. Admittedly, this section of Ward 2 is also home to many poor people. Because these people don't speak the same language or make as much money as the policy makers (a.k.a. Public Servants), their quality of life is not a concern. The EPA's actions once again demonstrate their willingness to use social, ethnic and economic discrimination as a viable public policy. The EPA will turn Coffin Avenue into a coffin.

Surely, if the pollutants were in a more affluent city, the EPA would consider safer, more cost-effective solutions. Turning Ward 2's main real estate asset, a waterfront, into an open pit of toxic waste is not a safe, effective, intelligent or just decision.

Policy makers are currently seeking federal assistance to grant the New Bedford waterfront National Park status. Does this status stop before the Ward 2 waterfront? Why aren't Ward 2 residents included in this revitalization plan? Surely, a safe, clean, revenue-generating park would improve the quality of life for Ward 2 residents and further unify the city. Why does the EPA want to fill in the lagoon and turn it into a toxic wasteland?

Please take a long, hard look at your decision making. One stroke of your pen could revitalize Ward 2 or turn it into an EPA embarrassment: a toxic eye-sore and testament to multi cultural intolerance and the un-American treatment of the poor.

Please consider a safe solution to this city-wide problem.

Sincerely,
Monique M. Frechette
Monique M. Frechette
Concerned Resident, Ward 2