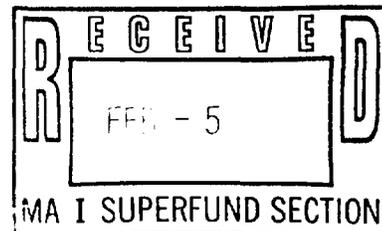


1580 Purchase Street
New Bedford, MA 02740
2/1/97



EPA Project Director - *manager*
JFK Federal Building
H.B.O.
Boston < MA 02203

Dear EPA Project Director,

I have been a citizen of New Bedford, Massachusetts for many years, and a school teacher in the city for even longer. I have been very impressed with the way the EPA has worked with many citizens here to resolve the PCB problems in New Bedford Harbor. I can see the Harbor as I write this, and it has become a very special part of my existence, and so I thank you from my heart for the care and intelligence you bring to your deliberations and actions.

I attended the meeting held a couple of months ago at which the containment process was presented as the best resolution to the problems. The citings of the containment areas appears to be the best possible given the overall general health of the Harbor. However, I also attended the public presentation of the testing of the sludge treatment process used by Eco-Logic. I found this process to be very impressive, especially since they can just roll the machinery needed in on trucks and roll it out when they are done. I'm still amazed by what I saw that night and eagerly await the test results.

My home is about a mile west as the crow flies from the largest containment center. I am therefore vitally concerned about leaving the PCB's in the sludge even more than I might be otherwise. I urge that we TREAT the sludge completely and return it to worthwhile use if possible. To have that sludge sit forever full of harmful chemicals does not seem logical since there are healthy alternatives available. If cost is an issue we'll find the money, perhaps in the defense department, since in my mind this is a defense issue of the highest order!

I've been teaching fourth graders for thirty years. Everyday I make an effort to do a better job than the day before. The children I teach ask me questions about our environmental problems that are so sensible! Sometimes I am embarrassed by the answers I must give which are often a product of only my own ignorance, and that of our collective community. Five years from now I want to tell them that I found the idea of untreated sludge in our beautiful Harbor unacceptable and that I tried to do something about it in many ways.

Thank you for listening. Thank you for your efforts. I look forward to following through on this process with you.

Sincerely,

Emily Johns
Emily Johns