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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

**U.S. v. AVX Original
Litigation Document**

July 7, 1983

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WASTE RESPONSE &
COMPLIANCE BRANCH

Representative Roger R. Goyette
Room 489
State House
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Representative Goyette:

Thank you for your recent correspondence relating to your concerns over PCB contamination of the Acushnet River Estuary.

As I am sure you know, I too have a continuing interest in ensuring that rapid progress is made on the cleanup of the harbor and of other PCB-contaminated areas in the City.

During a recent meeting with EPA Administrator William Ruckelshaus, I requested that the Agency expedite the remedial response by focusing on specific areas of concern and by completing work on those areas during this construction season. I refer specifically to the tidal flats located behind the Aerovox facility and the City's sewer lines. In addition, I requested that the EPA look into the possibility of including a comprehensive analysis of areas of Fairhaven in their feasibility study, either by including the Fairhaven area as part of the New Bedford Harbor site or by ranking it individually as a Superfund site. I expect to hear from Administrator Ruckelshaus on this issue in the very near future.

In regard to your questions on the New Bedford area health study, I have been in constant contact with the Centers For Disease Control in Atlanta. It is anticipated that a request for funding will be forwarded from CDC to EPA within the next two months so that the study can commence. Delays have occurred as a result of lengthy negotiations between the Mass. Department of Public Health and the CDC on the scope and nature of the study. However, at this time, I have been assured that only minor technical refinements remain to be worked out. As soon as the EPA has received the final proposal I will be in touch with the Administrator to urge that funding is made available in a timely fashion.

Finally, I have made EPA aware of your request for a meeting with Administrator Ruckelshaus.

Again, thank you for your letter, and I look forward to continuing to work closely with you on this issue in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Kennedy
Edward M. Kennedy



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

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Committees
Natural Resources and
Agriculture
Public Safety

ROOM 489, STATE HOUSE
TEL. 727-0330

June 24, 1983

*U.S. v. New Bedford
Litigation Document*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sen. Edward Kennedy, Sen. Paul Tsongas
Congressman Gerry Studds and the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation

FROM: Rep. Roger R. Goyette *R.R.G.*

RE: Health Impact Study

I wanted to relay my congratulations and thanks to Senator Kennedy and other members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation for their efforts in hastening the clean-up of the Re-Solve Hazardous Waste Site in Dartmouth. I am particularly thankful to Senator Kennedy for his leadership on this issue.

There has been input from many officials and concerned individuals relative to solving this toxic waste problem. The recommendation by the Environmental Protection Agency to transport the waste to a safe disposal site outside of New England represents a clean-up as opposed to a cover-up. This action reflects a precedent in the treatment and clean-up of hazardous waste sites in Massachusetts, and, unfortunately will occur in other areas of the Commonwealth.

As the House Chairman of the Special Commission on Solid and Hazardous Waste, I recognize firsthand the depth and scope of the contamination problem in Southeastern Massachusetts. My overall concern was recently heightened when I read of the purported fifteen percent increase in the cancer rate in eastern Massachusetts. I am particularly apprehensive for the public health and safety of our children. Contamination in the greater New Bedford area encompasses the worst case of environmental health hazards in the Commonwealth and one of the worst in the nation. Some \$200 million are targeted for this tremendous clean-up project, and I believe the health impact study is a very important project.

To alleviate that concern, I believe your concerted efforts should be directed towards the release of federal funds for an area health impact study. Safeguarding the public health should be our paramount priority and the impact study will reflect a definite step in the right direction.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health submitted the reviewed draft proposal for the health impact study months ago to the Atlanta Disease

Control Center. Since the ball has been in the federal court, no action has been taken. The public health cannot survive further delays!

It is my urgent request that you investigate the unwarranted delay in granting the release for this funding for the health study. The monies are desperately needed and reflect direct funding to the state Department of Public Health to institute the health impact study.

I have stated in the past and I restate my position now, I have a comprehensive file on this issue dating back several years.

Whereas the Greater New Bedford Area did not make the Super Fund's initial list, in direct contrast to overwhelming documented evidence of the scope and magnitude; and the tremendous delaying tactics of the E.P.A. and the failure of the E.P.A. to carry out their promises made to me personally at the E.P.A. headquarters in southwest Washington, D.C., I am resigned to the fact that a huge cover-up of this P.C.B. problem exists. This is reflected by the fact that all records at the national and state levels are being stamped "confidential", which I believe violates the public information laws. In conclusion, I am demanding an appointment from your office with E.P.A. Administrator William Ruckelshaus and a meeting with the Congressional Committee investigating E.P.A. functions.

Your cooperation in this matter is needed and appreciated.

P.S. Enclosed -