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Series/Staff Member: Kathleen (Katie) McGinty
Subseries: [correspondence]

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[L - February 1994] [Loose]

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 18, 1994

Charles Lee
Director of Research
United Church of Christ
Commission for Racial Justice
475 Riverside Drive
Suite 1950
New York, NY 10115

Dear Mr. Lee:

As you know, the President recently signed an executive order on environmental justice that will help ensure that government policies and actions related to human health and the environment do not have a disproportionately high and adverse impact on low-income and minority Americans.

The executive order would not have been possible without the years of hard work that you have devoted to advancing environmental justice. Given your commitment to this issue, I was particularly disappointed that you were unable to attend the signing of the order.

The executive order is this Administration's first step in ensuring environmental justice. Your involvement in the implementation of the executive order will be critical to its success. I hope that I can count on you to work closely with the Administration in the implementation of the order.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to ensuring that all Americans have a safe and healthy environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen McGinty", written in a cursive style.

Kathleen A. McGinty
Director, White House Office
on Environmental Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 22, 1994

Mr. Ralph Larsen
Chairman and CEO
Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933

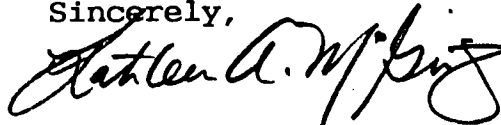
Dear Mr. Larsen:

Congratulations to Johnson & Johnson on receiving the Partner Certificate of Distinction for Communication and Promotion of the Year Award for the EPA's Green Lights Program! The program is doing remarkably well, in no small part because of participation like Johnson & Johnson's, and we are pleased to have your organization joining in efforts to help the environment and the economy. Commitment to sustainable development is a cornerstone to President Clinton's philosophy and is driving our environmental agenda throughout the Administration.

As you may know, last October President Clinton released his Climate Change Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000. The Green Lights Program is one of the initiatives which will play a significant role in the implementation of the Action Plan. I want to commend you for your active participation in this program.

Again, congratulations.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. McGinty
Director, White House Office on
Environmental Policy

KAM/avl

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 15, 1994

The Honorable Joseph Lieberman
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

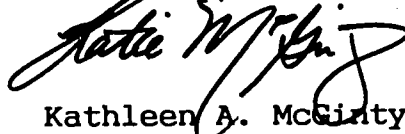
Dear Senator Lieberman:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Connecticut Recycling Coalition's thoughts about the Executive Composting Act, H.R. 2292. It was good to hear from you.

I appreciate learning your thoughts about possible environmental upgrades to the White House Complex. As you know, an environmental audit was recently performed of the entire complex. The group working on this important initiative is scheduled to release their findings in the very near future. Rest assured that I will send you a copy of the report as soon as this information is available.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. McGinty
Director, White House Office on
Environmental Policy

KAM/avl

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 12, 1994

Ms. Katie McGinty
Office of Environmental Policy
Old Executive Office Building
17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Katie,

The Connecticut Recycling Coalition has written me concerning their interest in the Executive Composting Act H.R. 2292 which is currently being considered by the House. This proposal contains some interesting ideas and may provide an opportunity for the President to lead by example. I know that the White House is undertaking a number of steps to make it more environmentally friendly. Do any of these steps include composting and/or recycling of materials?

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lieberman", written in a cursive style.

Joseph I. Lieberman

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 15, 1994

Ms. Denise Lee
Blue Ridge Environmental
Defense League
Route 2, Box 286
Wadesboro, N.C. 28170

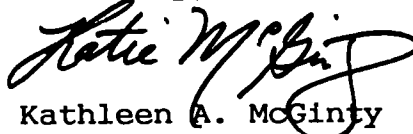
Dear Ms. Lee:

Thank you for contacting me regarding your thoughts about hazardous waste incineration and Carolina Solite. It was good to hear from you again.

As you know, President Clinton and I are committed to the preservation of our environment in a way that leads to strong and sustainable economic growth. I certainly appreciate learning your views about waste incineration, and specifically your thoughts about the facility in your community. This Administration supports the study and development of environmentally sound alternatives to the incineration process. I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to the Environmental Protection Agency for review and response to the specific concerns you raise.

Again, thank you for sharing your views with me.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. McGinty
Director, White House Office on
Environmental Policy

KAM/avl

January 14, 1994

Kathleen McGinty
White House Environmental Official
13 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20500

EPA
Waste incineration
Zcor

Dear Ms. McGinty,

On May the 9th, 1993, I wrote you in regards to Carolina Solite/Oldover. Included with my letter was a copy of the newspaper written about this company. This company continues to be of concern to the citizens living near their operations, (ie enclosures).

Solite wants to claim that the spill on Nov. 4, 1993 was the result of sabotage, yet we know of no ongoing investigation. If this incident was the result of sabotage, then the citizens living in the proximity of the plant deserve reassurance that a full investigation is made. It is very frightening to imagine that sabotage at a facility storing thousands of gallons of hazardous waste can take place. If the tanks had of ignited, in all probability, people would have been killed.

We ask President Clinton to request an inquiry as to the actual cause of the spill.

Citizens living around Carolina Solite deserve and insist that a full health assessment be done including all exposure routes for heavy metals, VOC's and inorganic compounds.

Ms. Joann Almond and I may be coming to Washington, DC in February 10-16th, and would appreciate a meeting with you to discuss our concerns.

Your assistance and cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Denise Lee

Denise Lee
Blue Ridge Environmental
Defense League
Rt. 2, Box 286
Wadesboro, NC 28170
(704) 826-8116
Fax 826-8151

Stanley D. ...

1-11-94

Oldover Corp. Reports Spill

The second spill at the Oldover tank farm, located next to Carolina Solite, in just over two months occurred Monday morning.

According to Susan Hurley, company spokesman, spill of about seven gallons happened about 10:50 when an employee failed to close a valve on a storage tank, resulting in an accidental overfilling of the tank.

All but approximately one to two gallons of the spill were contained within the concrete containment area. Plant officials estimate that one to two gallons sprayed over the containment wall, Hurley said. The waste fuel and contaminated soil were immediately cleaned up.

The accident was the result of an employee error. The employee will immediately receive a written warning as well as retraining in proper operations of the tank farm, she said.

"This incident is very different from the Nov. 4 spill," Hurley said. "The indications are that the November spill was the result of sabotage. This spill involves a much smaller quantity but was clearly our error, and we take full responsibility for it."

The earlier spill resulted in the loss of 2,500 gallons. All but 200 gallons of the spill was contained in the concrete containment area.

Due to the small quantity of waste fuel which was released during Monday's spill, reporting was not required, she said. How-

ever, local fire department and emergency response officials were notified as a courtesy. A state resident inspector was present at the time of the spill and clean-up.

January 13, 1994

Kathleen McGinty
White House Environmental Official
13 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. McGinty,

In November 93, I attended a conference sponsored by the EPA on waste minimization and combustion. I left that meeting very concerned and disappointed along with about 30 other disgusted citizens because it was quite evident that our concerns were not being seriously considered.

It was my opinion that we were included in this conference for two reasons,

(1) To give the impression to your administration that the public was included in the process of any new rules governing Boiler Industrial Furnaces (BIF's) and combustion strategies.

(2) To convince us, the affected communities, that we must agree on an acceptable risk when living near one of these facilities.

It was quite clear that the industry representatives and the EPA came to this conference with a predetermined agenda and their goal was to coerce us into an agreement without including all pertinent information. The scientific data about the inadequate technology being used and the true health effects of emissions from these facilities and EPA's fraudulent regulations were never recognized or discussed by EPA or industry.

A case in point would be EPA's position on cement kiln dust (CKD). In EPA's press release it stated, "the dust rarely meets hazardous waste regulatory limits" it "poses minimal health and environmental risks...Analysis of dust samples showed little differences in levels of toxic constituents in dust from hazardous waste burning facilities and those samples from facilities not burning hazardous materials."

As a citizen living near a cement kiln burning hazardous waste I am appalled that EPA considers my health of minimal importance and again I am subjected to a risk without due process! I ask that the EPA release information and documentation as to how they concluded there was minimal risk associated with CKD and to include all routes of exposure. I would also like to know when was the last time EPA actually came to Aquadale, N.C. and tested the soil, air, water, and performed health studies on citizens living in that community. The answer is never!

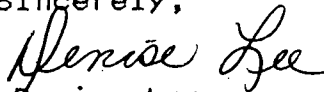
I am asking that EPA remove the Bevill exemption for CKD, and request the EPA to have industry submit comments at the public hearing on February 15, in DC, just like any other interested party. There should be no closed door meetings on

this issue.

I ask that you meet with EPA official Mr. Hugh Kaufman to find out the truth about the regulation of BIF's and EPA policies. I also ask that you request President Clinton to lift the gag order on Mr. Kaufman and other EPA officials who are willing to tell stand up for what is right and just. Until that is done, citizens will never believe in truth and justice for all!

Your assistance and cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Denise Lee
Blue Ridge Environmental
Defense League
Rt. 2, Box 286
Wadesboro, NC 28170
(704) 826-8116
Fax 826-8151

cc: Carol Browner, Administrator, US EPA

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 17, 1994

Ms. Alison Williams Lewin
310 Wilson Avenue
Morgantown, WV 26505

Dear Ms. Lewin:

Thank you for writing about fuel efficiency and dependence on foreign oil. It was good to hear from you.

As you know, I share President Clinton's commitment to the preservation of the environment in a way that promotes strong and sustainable economic growth.

The President and Vice President support reduction of greenhouse gases as part of our commitment to the Framework Convention on Climate Change. The President announced on Earth Day our nation's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000. As part of that commitment, a Climate Change Mitigation Group was formed, and is examining the role of sink enhancement projects in returning greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels.

I appreciate knowing of your commitment to environmental protection and interest in an energy efficient society. Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen A. McGinty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathleen" and last name "McGinty" clearly legible.

Kathleen A. McGinty
Director, White House Office on
Environmental Policy

KAM/jdm

Dear President Clinton,

During the '73 oil crisis, the U.S. was forced to deal with high prices and short supplies of gasoline. Somewhat we coped, and began using more fuel-efficient cars. For environmental reasons, ~~it is not enough~~ ~~obviously taking further steps to decrease our dependence on & consumption of foreign oil~~

~~We must make our cars more fuel-efficient, especially as the US shows little progress in developing mass transportation.~~ Your Climate Change Action Plan was a step in the right direction, but in my opinion did not go far enough concerning Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards. Many of the technologies necessary to get 45 MPG for cars & 34 MPG for light trucks are already available - doesn't it seem sensible to use what we have to get fewer emissions into the air? I urge you to stand firm against the auto industry and insist on these quite reasonable CAFE standards.

Sincerely yours,
Alison Williams Lemir

Alison Williams Lemir
310 Wilson Avenue
Morgantown WV 26505

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 15, 1994

Adi Liberman
Executive Director
Heal the Bay
1640 Fifth Street, Suite 204
Santa Monica, California 90401

Dear Adi:

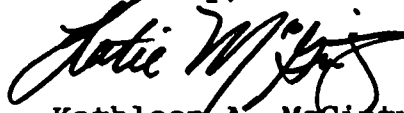
Thank you for your letter of January 24. I regret that I was unable to meet with your group during my recent visit to California.

This Administration is strongly supportive of the participation of local groups in environmental policymaking. Locally organized groups of concerned citizens play an important role in the protection of our environment. The decentralized nature of water quality policy and the budgetary limitations faced by regulatory agencies make the need for local activists all the more urgent.

I would appreciate learning your thoughts about stormwater regulation in your community. As you may know, we are moving forward with the Clean Water Act reauthorization, in which nonpoint pollution concerns play a prominent role. This Administration is firmly committed to the reduction of this persistent and serious threat to the health and integrity of this country's waterbodies. Rest assured that we are looking into ways of addressing the significant problem of stormwater discharges in the reauthorization process.

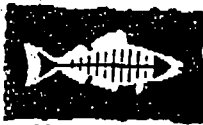
Thank you for your invitation to meet during my next trip to southern California. We will make every effort to hear your recommendations and concerns. Thank you again for your letter and vigilance in the protection of our nation's natural heritage.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. McGinty
Director, White House Office on
Environmental Policy

KAM/avl



Heal the Bay.

1640 FIFTH STREET, SUITE 204

SANTA MONICA, CA 90401

310-394-4552 (fax) 395-6878

*Will
please work
at your & staff
a personal
Thank you!*

January 24, 1994

Ms. Kathleen McGinty
Director, White House Office on Environmental Policy
Old Executive Office Building, Room 360
Washington, DC. 20501

Dear Ms. McGinty:

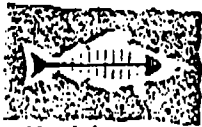
It was a pleasure to meet you at Phillipe Caland's home in Bel Air last Sunday. I listened to your remarks with great interest and felt satisfied about our work to elect an environmental administration. I trust that you had a productive visit and that the earthquake the next morning did not turn your trip into an ordeal. All of us at Heal the Bay survived the quake, although we suffered considerable damage at our homes and in our organization's headquarters.

I am writing you to express Heal the Bay's extreme disappointment that you chose to inspect the Los Angeles County storm drain system, but failed to gain any direct input from the largest local environmental group involved with this issue. We appreciate the time you took for a tour of the storm drain system. We also understand your desire to have elected officials and government representatives join you on the tour. Frankly, however, we are very surprised and disappointed that you did not seek the counsel of Heal the Bay for our independent assessment of the storm drain situation, especially given President Clinton's and Vice President Gore's orientation on the environment and community organizations.

Heal the Bay is a community based organization of over 10,000 members representing about 30,000 very committed and active citizens. We are solely dedicated to restoring the badly polluted coastline and beaches of the Los Angeles region! A large proportion of the region's population has come to consider Heal the Bay to be its voice and representative regarding coastal pollution issues. They have come to rely on us for information regarding the status of government efforts to protect the coastal environment, including our view of which elected officials and public servants are actually working to improve the pollution problem of Santa Monica Bay.

Our conclusion at this point is that local environmental groups, no matter how large their membership or pervasive their past impact, must be considered to be marginal or unimportant to the Administration. This is a conclusion that I know our membership will find troubling and confusing. Our hope is that this conclusion is found to be unsubstantiated.

*Record
of this
letter
Grove Air
VITA*



Heal the Bay.

The primary reason we regret being left out of your visit is that we believe we provide a very different and important point of view than local government officials. Although we value their work to protect our environment, experience has shown us that in many situations, we could not completely rely on governmental action. That is why Heal the Bay, along with the Natural Resources Defense Council, could no longer wait for Federal action and initiated the recent lawsuit which recently succeeded in forcing a local 330 million gallons per day sewage treatment plant to comply with the Clean Water Act. It is also the reason why, in the face of local health department inaction, Heal the Bay undertook the research which revealed that runoff discharged to our popular beaches contained human enteric viruses from sewage. Finally, this is why Heal the Bay and the NRDC could no longer wait for State regulators and had to take legal action to promote compliance with industrial storm water permit requirements at a time when only about thirty percent of industry chose to comply.

If you had chosen to meet with us, we would have briefed you on the major problems regarding the implementation of storm water regulations here in Southern California. We would also have provided you with our policy recommendations as how to improve these regulations and straighten enforcement and compliance. We are certain that you will not be provided this input from local government officials who already feel beleaguered implementing existing rules and regulations.

We still hope to have the opportunity to discuss our concerns regarding storm water regulations with you and ask that when you next visit Southern California, you will set aside some time to meet with us. We trust that as you travel around the country investigating environmental issues, you will take the time to meet and confer with representatives from environmental organizations to obtain information and a perspective you may not get from government or industry officials. We wish you well in all your efforts and look forward to your response to this letter.

Very truly yours,

Adi Liberman
Executive Director

enclosures

cc: Tom Epstein, Special Assistant to the President
Felicia Marcus, Regional Administrator, US. Environmental Protection Agency

SECRET
THIR
22 COMM -

MAKE A
GENERAL
COMMITMENT