

16 May 1994

Dear Mr. Burke:

I want to bring to your attention a glaring example of how government agencies are working at cross purposes and doing so to the detriment of the environment.

For years the Environmental Protection Agency has worked to ban the use and production of chlorine and chlorine compounds. A ban on the production of Freon is scheduled to go into effect next year in accordance with the Clean Air Act Amendments. This ban is intended to reduce depletion of the earth's ozone layer. Freon, a chlorine compound, is primarily used in air conditioning. To some degree, it's use should be viewed as discretionary. There is another application for chlorine which is, also, largely discretionary because healthy alternatives exist. That use is in swimming pools.

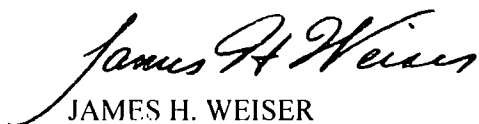
There are approximately 10 million in-ground and 15 above-ground swimming pools in the United States. Almost 95 percent of these are sanitized by chlorine. 712.5 million pounds is a conservative estimate of the chlorine consumed by these pools annually. Some of this becomes atmospheric but much of the chlorine, it's by-products, and associated chemicals find their way into the surrounding ecosystems, causing great environmental damage.

Most of this damage can be eliminated through the use of alternative sanitizers, of which there are several. There is a chemical treatment based on biguanide, which totally eliminates chlorine, but introduces a different set of environmental problems. There are "salt" and ozone generators which reduce chemical dependence by up to 50 percent, but require residual chlorine levels to insure sanitation, and there is copper/silver ionization, which reduces chemical use by up to 90 percent. Some alternatives are compatible with non-chlorine oxidizers, effectively eliminating the health and environmental hazards of chlorine.

It is safe to say that, while the EPA seeks to ban chlorine, nearly 100 percent of the pools operated by various federal agencies use chlorine as their primary sanitizer. The White House pool is likely using chlorine. At Langley Air Force Base, two of the four pools using chlorine are located right on a finger of the Chesapeake Bay.

This is not a good example of cohesive government. It is not an example of government protecting it's citizens and their environment. As Senior Policy Analyst for Domestic Policy, I urge you to bring this to the attention of Vice President Gore and EPA Director Browner.

Sincerely,

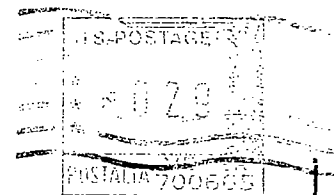


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Brian,
Here's the
correspondence I asked
you about a couple of
weeks ago & you said
you didn't remember it!
Laurie found it behind
the book shelf!!
I know "Bud" Weiser &
I'm sure that's
what it is.
Mailed in May
Cw