

16. February. 2001

Representative Tom Sawyer
U.S House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510
sent via FAX 202-225-5278

Representative Ralph Regula
U.S House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510
sent via FAX 202-225-3059

Dear Representatives Sawyer and Regula,

Attached please find a letter sent a few days ago from US Senator Alan Specter (R-PA), US Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA), and US Rep. Don Sherwood (R-PA) calling on US EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman to allow US Ombudsman Robert Martin and US Ombudsman chief investigator, Hugh Kaufman, to complete their investigation of a Superfund site in Throop, PA. Such an immediate act, be it individually or collectively, is essential concerning the Industrial Excess Landfill (IEL), where Mr. Martin and Mr. Kaufman have been investigating past practices over the preceding three years.

It is time for you, I respectfully ask, to make the same appeal in writing to Administrator Whitman on behalf of full authority, independence and funding for Martin AND Kaufman and ultimately on behalf of the citizens of Uniontown and the surrounding area who remain concerned about their safety. In light of the recent WKYC TV 3 investigation which underscored many questions about the presence of radiation at IEL, doing everything possible to convince Administrator Whitman on behalf of a continued Martin AND Kaufman investigation is critical.

Unless there are clear, constant and committed voices coming from the local Congressional delegation on behalf of an on-going US Ombudsman investigation, the polluting corporations, US military interests, and others who wish to literally and figuratively bury the IEL will prevail. Only clear, constant and committed voices will provide the impression that our Congressional delegation is serious about seeing the US Ombudsman and his chief investigator resume their work at the IEL.

Implied in the above request for sufficient funding for the US Ombudsman office is my request to you for introduction of legislation that would substantially increase funding for that office. Given the still, relatively speaking, early stages of the federal budget process, it is appropriate to add appropriations to that line item. Will either or both of you introduce such legislation?

As the saying goes, "the squeaky wheel gets the grease." You are both needed to be squeaky -- not only as in clean but also as in noisy. Nothing less is demanded from those who are to "represent" affected and potentially affected citizens in what is left of our democracy.

Respectfully,

Greg Coleridge
Director
Economic Justice & Empowerment
cc: public