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In Service to America

February 4, 1993

Honorable Carol Browner, Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. EPA Headquarters
401 M St., SW (A-100)
Washington, DC 20460

received
FEB 8 1993
NJ State Council
VVA Secretary
COPY

Dear Administrator Browner:

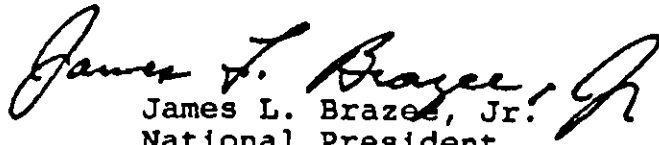
This letter is intended to draw your immediate attention to an ill designed action about to be consummated with the apparent approval of the local EPA regional office which will have enduring environmental consequences of unknown proportions and duration. As we understand it, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is preparing to dredge New York Harbor. The materials dredged, however, contain Dioxin (TCDD) resulting from run off from the Superfund Diamond Alkali plant site in New Jersey.

In filing for a permit to carry out dredging operations, the New York and New Jersey Port Authorities are intending to deposit contaminated materials in the Atlantic Ocean off the New Jersey coast in an area known as Mud Hole, a prime fishing ground. we respectfully ask that you intervene directly and immediately to bring a halt to these planned operations at least until the public health consequences of this planned action can be more fully assessed.

As an organization of veterans many of whom were heavily exposed to dioxin in Vietnam and elsewhere as a result of military use of Agent Orange and other toxic herbicides containing dioxin, we speak to this issue of New York/New Jersey Port Authority plans with obvious interest and considerable authority. Over the course of the last 12 years we have observed a deeply troubling trend in federal policy designed to mollify the interests of chemical and

other industries at the expense of public health and safety where the topic of dioxin toxicity levels is concerned. Your direct and immediate intercession on this matter as one of the first steps taken in your tenure as EPA Administrator would be seen as both a refreshing and bold departure from business as usual in environmental policy.

Sincerely,


James L. Brazee, Jr.
National President

cc: John Greco, New York State Council President
Gary Wall, New Jersey State Council President

Attachments