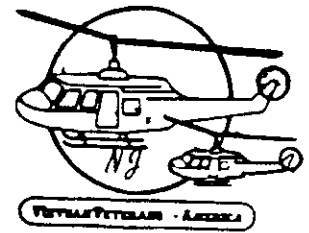




NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

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Secretary

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Treasurer

The Honorable Jim Florio
Office of the Governor
CN-001
Trenton, NJ 08625

January 31, 1993

Dear Governor Florio,


During a meeting of Delegates to the New Jersey State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America, the Council was directed to take opposition to the dumping of dioxin contaminated dredge materials at the "Mud Buoy." As you have been one of our greatest advocates, we are sure that you are familiar with the reasons for our concern and fear for the public at large.

We fully understand the potential economic impact that will be felt by New Jersey should the Newark Bay area become non-navigable for deep draft shipping. We are, therefore, not in opposition to the dredging operation and recognize the need of the Port of Authority to commence these operations as soon as possible.

On January 27th, 1993, we attended a meeting with the Port of Authority and later, attended "hearings" conducted by the EPA. At the close of those meetings, we are even stronger in our opposition to ocean dumping of these materials. Additionally we discovered that there may be as many as 40 more ocean dumping permits "stacked-up" behind the PA permit. We have been led to understand that as many as 20 of those permits include dioxin contaminated sludge.

Given your record as a strong environmentalist, who is truly concerned for the people of this state, and as an early advocate of Veterans concerns surrounding dioxin exposure; we are asking your immediate attention on this issue. There must be an available compromise that will allow the dredging to continue, while preventing further dioxin contamination. If at all possible, we would like the opportunity to meet with you and discuss this issue.

For the Members of the N.J. State Council, Vietnam Veterans of America:


Gary C. Wall,
President