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April 12, 2004

Senator George Allen
204 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4604

Dear Senator Allen:

I am writing to inform you that I and another citizen of Virginia went to extraordinary expense, and traveled great distances throughout the state to document citizen accounts of how they were victimized by sludge exposure. The complaints are recorded on video tape. These incidents include human health, animal health, doctor statements, environmental and extreme nuisance episodes. The Virginia Department of Health, as well as local Health Departments have continually denied that there are any complaints from the public about sludge exposure. None of these agencies has a procedure to file complaints nor track incidents.

We know that it is absolutely false that no complaints exist. That is precisely why we went to the trouble to document these first hand accounts in a video. We are being denied our rights as citizens to present our documentation of harm to Virginia's health officials.

The VDH has refused to let us present the video to them. They are not interested. We have asked the Virginia Board of Health, whose charter specifically states their mission is to listen to citizen health concerns, to allow us to present this crucial documentation in it's entirety at their next meeting April 29/30. They have refused as well. The VDH has also refused to intercede on our behalf with the VBOH.

I further believe that because of all the complaints about sludge to the VBOH, they have systematically made it more difficult for citizens to express their concerns about health. This is achieved by no longer accepting emails or direct correspondence from citizens. Further, they have restricted citizen comments to 2 minutes each with a maximum of 20 minutes at the end of their meetings. Two minutes is barely time to state one's name and address, much less express opinions. They have even held up consent to show it in two minute intervals by 10 citizens, an effort to comply with their restrictive rules.

I am shocked and appalled that the VDH and the VBOH, whose sole concern should be to protect citizens health, yet both have falsely promoted sludge as a safe product, and both REFUSE to allow documentation that sludge has made constituents sick. Even EPA has conceded they cannot assure sludge is safe for public health. Other States have taken action to protect their citizens from the dangerous health consequences if sludge as noted by the Nevada newspaper The Pahrump Valley Times 4/2/04 <http://www.pahrumpvalleytimes.com/2004/04/02/news/sludge.html>

SEN. REID CREDITED WITH STOPPING AMARGOSA VALLEY SHIPMENTS

Reid, a member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, contacted U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Mike Leavitt, expressing strong concerns over the application of the municipal sewage sludge

Nelson said Reid asked the Orange County Sanitation District questions about the safety of the sewage sludge they weren't able to answer satisfactorily.

I would request you take these same steps to protect Virginia citizens from this potentially harmful or even fatal substance. I also request you intercede on my behalf with VDH and VBOH to assure a full viewing of our video.

Thank you for consideration.

Barbara L. Rubin, Loudoun NATS (Neighbors Against Toxic Sludge) www.LoudounNATS.org

cc: Senator Warner, Representative Wolf,, VA State Senators Potts and Mims, Assemblyman. May, NY Times, Wall Street Journal, AP, Washington Post, Washington Times, Richmond Times-Dispatch