



## CITY OF OREGON OHIO

5330 SEAMAN ROAD • OREGON, OH 43616-2633  
www.ci.oregon.oh.us

MARGE BROWN MAYOR  
(419) 698-7045 PHONE  
(419) 691-0241 FAX  
mbrown@ci.oregon.oh.us E-MAIL

March 25, 2004

Kirk S. Riley  
Hazardous Substance Research Center  
Michigan State University  
B 100 Research Complex-Engineering  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1326

Subject: Envirosafe Services of Ohio, Inc.

Dear Mr. Riley:

A special thanks to you and the entire TOSC group for your work on the Envirosafe Otter Creek hazardous waste landfills. Your work is important. The billions and billions of pounds of toxic waste at this site sit a stone's throw from Lake Erie.

For many years the company represented to me and prior mayors that their huge hazardous waste landfills could never leak. "The clays are just too good," they told us. However, last year the Ohio EPA stated that the Envirosafe site is leaking. But the agencies involved never explained just how big and deep the leaking is. The public would have to pour through thousands and thousands of pages filled with technical jargon. Your work literally painted a clear picture of just what is going on. You used only Envirosafe's own data. I am happy to say even I could understand it.

This view of TOSC's work is very widely shared by many people and I am really saying "thanks" on their behalf. Both elected officials and homeowners who saw Dr. Li's presentation tell me that they understand this problem much more clearly.

The newspapers here report that Envirosafe is still downplaying the real problems and criticizing TOSC. TOSC joins a long list of others that have been criticized by Envirosafe. Envirosafe attacked the Ohio Department of Natural Resources when it said the geology was unsuitable for a landfill and voted against issuing a permit in the first place. They attacked Dr. Kirk Cameron who wrote the US EPA guidance for statistical monitoring of ground water.

Almost ten years ago, Dr. Cameron reported that the evidence showed the site was likely leaking and Envirosafe needed to test for more organic chemicals. *Just like the ones you showed in your charts.* They attacked Dr. Spongberg from the University of Toledo who reached the similar

conclusions on the geology as did TOSC. A professor from the University of Cincinnati. The landfill design professor from the Ohio State University. The Chief Nuclear Safety Officer at the Ohio State University.

Our Council and I represent hard-working and good people. You are honorable people from a great university--not that we will start rooting for you over Toledo or Ohio State in sports. But, when are dealing with Lake Erie and our community's future, we are rooting for you. Keep making the truth understandable!

If I can do anything to help you get your grant continued and expanded, please let me know. I copied Ohio EPA and the United States EPA. I believe we might be able to participate in a smaller way if a local match is needed.

Again, my deepest thanks to you, Dr. Li, and the scientists at TOSC.

Very truly yours,

  


Marge Brown, Mayor

MB/TRH/bam

cc. Christopher Jones, Director, Ohio EPA  
Shannon Nabors, Ohio EPA, NWDO  
Thomas Skinner, Regional Administrator, Region 5  
US EPA Thomas Matheson, Region 5 US EPA  
Mike Sheehy, Council President  
Members of Oregon City Council