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February 13, 1990

Ms. Betty Wonkovich  
U.S. EPA  
401 M St. SW  
Rm. W-1200 A 100  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Ms. Wonkovich:

Per our conversation today, I am enclosing some of the information that I've gathered on what seems to be a growing scandal within the Texas EPA office, involving Formosa Plastics Corporation's plan to build a \$1.3 billion plant on the Texas Gulf Coast.

I was quite angered today to learn from my Texas contacts that the Texas EPA is working in conjunction with local politicians to speed Formosa's applications through without the proper environmental impact studies that would certainly reveal Formosa's record as one of the world's leading polluters and environmental violators.

This situation smells of political corruption, not unlike the current HUD scandal. Environmentalists in Texas have already contacted major newspapers and magazines such as "TIME" and "NEWSWEEK", as well as such investigative shows as "20/20" and "60 Minutes" to look into the story.

The citizens' voiced opposition to Formosa Plastics' expansion and negligent history has fallen on deaf ears with Texas politicians. In fact, it's been reported (per the enclosed account from The Houston Chronicle) that the EPA has been pressured to have federal permits processed in eight months, less than half the normal time, and without a demand for an environmental impact statement.

As I mentioned to you on the phone, Formosa is such a flagrant polluter that Taiwan has kicked the company out of that country. In the United States, Delaware forced the Formosa plant in that state to close down, and Louisiana is currently fighting to close Formosa's Baton Rouge plant. Texas politicians, however, are hiding all of Formosa's violations and

are currently railroading the plant through by foregoing the usual EPA studies.

I hope that your Washington office will look into the Texas EPA and determine why they are ignoring Formosa's hideous pollution record. Environmentalists are outraged at EPA's "bought-off" stance and, as I've said, concerned citizens have asked "60 Minutes" and "20/20" as well as major newspapers and magazines across the country to investigate.

Formosa Plastics Corporation is already guilty of polluting the Matagorda Bay system at the proposed Texas site, which annually produces 8 million pounds of commercial seafood and \$120 million in recreational fishing.

Texas is called the nation's largest toxic waste producer and the state has been raped enough by corrupt and short-sighted politicians. They have never mentioned to their constituents that Formosa's Louisiana plant, for instance, is one of 205 nationwide where the EPA calculated the cancer risk as greatest (1 in 100). One EPA report summarized that the company's constant violations reflected "poor housekeeping, poor process control, and poor waste management practices."

If Formosa is allowed to expand in the Matagorda Bay area, the entire marine and agriculture industries may be irreparably jeopardized. Our environment must be protected in the 1990's and if the EPA cannot do its job, then this fact must be exposed to national news. Since this situation seems to largely involve the EPA, I hope that you will quickly investigate the Texas regional office yourselves before it becomes a full-blown national scandal.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,



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cc: Mr. William Reilly