Silvia M. Aldredge 28 Crescent Street Providence, RI 02907 401-523-2433



November 17, 2006

Tim Regan, PE EA Engineering Science and Technology 2350 Post Road Warwick, RI 02886-2242

Dear Mr. Regan,

The purpose of this letter is to express my extreme disappointment with EA Engineering's continued characterization of the people in our neighborhood who oppose the school construction at the Gorham/ Textron Dump Site, as being motivated by racism.

It has come to my attention that you spoke with people at the Brownfields Conference in Boston and claimed that I stated to you that I did not want "black kids in my neighborhood" and that this, not the un-remediated Superfund Site in our midst, is the primary issue of concern for the neighborhood. Let me be absolutely unequivocal; I said no such thing. This statement is a lie.

Mr. Regan, I find it utterly offensive that you are so desperate to defend the ill-conceived, and radically poorly executed plan for this school that you would go so far as to slander me and other neighbors publicly at a nationally-recognized conference.

Two simple facts refute this tired, and completely erroneous argument:

- Our neighborhood is a minority neighborhood, with over 10% Asian, over 20% African American, and over 40% Hispanic residents. Neighbors of all ethnic groups have continually expressed their concerns about this construction. The claim of racism by you, and representatives of the City, is nothing more than a pathetic attempt to sew discord among this unified opposition.
- 2. I would remind you that the neighbors have brought no information to light that does not come from the public record. We have done nothing but point out to the City and the DEM information that was already publicly available and required action if development of this Dump Site is to be safe and compliant. Your claim that we oppose this for racist reasons is not only slanderous and untrue, but also irrelevant. We oppose

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the haphazard, non-compliant, incomplete remediation of this site and we oppose sending children to school on top of whatever hazardous waste the City might decide it doesn't want to deal with, regardless of the legal requirements to do so.

I would suggest to you, Mr. Regan, that you try to come up with some factual information in support of your position. Because today, the facts show that this school is going to abut an almost totally unstudied 100 year-old waste dump; this building will present a very real risk for vapor intrusion by TCE at levels which are dangerous to human health. This school will be next door to an empty supermarket with an unremediated plume of PCE, which is growing more concentrated, running under it. It will be located next to a pond and cove that contain elevated levels of dioxin, furans and other hazardous substances in their sediments.

Neighbors of this school and parents of children who might go to this school, regardless of their ethnic origins, have every right to demand accountability, transparency, and rigid adherence to environmental protections. If that frustrates you, so be it, but please refrain from further personal attacks on our efforts to see that the City does what it is legally and morally obligated to do in order to successfully re-develop the Gorham Textron Dump Site.

Sincerely,

Silvia M. Aldredae

CC: Steven Fischbach, RILS

> Brian Lesinski- EA Engineering Joe Martella, RIDEM- OWM

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