

APR - 3 1991

Dear Friends:

First of all let me apologize for the form letter style, but the reason for it is that I'm writing to everyone who has ever contacted Local 2050 and asked for help or information, and that's a lot of folks. The Union now needs your help to keeping functioning in the manner that was able to be of assistance to you. This is not a solicitation for financial help.

It is much more serious than that. The Environmental Protection Agency is trying to prevent us from responding to questions from citizens like you about our work and what that work may mean for you, your co-workers and your family. Let me explain.

In the Federal Government, a union's rights are quite limited: no wage, hour or benefits bargaining, no union shop, and no strikes to defend ourselves. What Federal unions get, among other things, in return for those restrictions on our rights is that we union officials continue to be paid by our agencies as though we were doing our "regular" jobs as scientists, lawyers, secretaries, clerks, and the like. It is called "official time" to do union work.

For the past several years, as our Union has grown in size and reputation, many citizens have contacted us on a variety of matters that involve our "official time" duties. For example, after many EPA employees were sickened by an installation of new carpet in 1987-88 and news of this got around the country, we were deluged with requests for information on what happened to us and on how our problems relate to similar problems citizens and their families were having with carpet installations. Other citizens expressed concern over the way one of EPA's drinking water regulations was set after the Union raised the same concern as a matter of professional ethics. That is, we believe that the Agency used science as a cover for a purely political decision on setting the standard in question, and that action damaged our reputations as scientists. Others have called us for help in understanding how EPA scientists deal with pesticide issues. There are other examples, but these are enough to give you the picture.

EPA is now trying to stop our use of "official time" for pursuing these kinds of activities and for responding to your questions about how we EPA professionals do our work. EPA is already retaliating against our Executive Board members who have led the fight for clean indoor air and the ethical practice of science within the Agency. If EPA Administrator Reilly and Assistant Administrator Grizzle are allowed to continue on this course, we will be unable to respond to your calls for help and otherwise make known what working inside EPA is really like.

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ATTACHMENT B

SMR  
AGRIC  
COMMITTEE  
DOOLEY  
District of Columbia

We very much need you to write to Administrator Reilly and ask him why he and Mr. Grizzle are taking this action, and we need you to urge him not to continue on this course. We would like you to give him details of the interaction you have had with Local 2050. We also need you to send copies of that letter to your Senators and Representative in Congress and to ask each of them to look into the situation Mr. Reilly and Mr. Grizzle have created; this is very important.

The Union is defending its ability to continue to make our job-related work and knowledge available to the public in other ways, but your help is vital to our ability to succeed in that defense. You may write to Mr. Reilly at this address:

Hon. William K. Reilly, Administrator  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

If you have any questions about this matter please call the Union at 202-382-2383 between 7:30 am. and 6:30 pm. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

If the help we were able to provide you has benefited others, we ask that you pass this letter on to them too.

Thanks in advance on behalf of all those EPA Headquarters professionals working diligently in the public interest.

In Solidarity,



Bill Hirzy, President

P.S. If you could send us a copy of your letter to Mr. Reilly, it would help our cause. Our address is: NFFE Local 2050, P.O. Box 76082, Washington, D.C. 20013.

FILE

22 April 1991 COPY

P.O. Box 362  
Montpeleir, Vt 05601  
(802)229-9849

Hon William K. Reilly  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

It is my understanding that you and Assistant Administrator Grizzle are trying to stop members of Local 2050 from using Official Time to give information and assistance to citizens on problems relative to the environment. I believe this is wrong and would like to know why you are doing this.

I am a housewife from Montpelier, my husband is a LTC in the U.S. Army and I have five children ages 5 to 21. My family was made very ill in 1985 from 130 yards of a commercial carpet installed in our home. MY family has been damaged from this toxic exposure. We were advised by an Occupational Health doctor at U. Mass to leave our house of 8+ years. I have also seen an Occupational Health Doctor at Yale who has diagnosed me with MCS. My children have not been well. One child so sick she has been out of school and home tutored for over a year.

It is a living Hell and no child should have to go through this because their mother bought new carpet.

In 1988 I heard about the carpet problem at EPA. I got in touch with Bill Hirzy at local 2050. I have also spoken with others there. I was given information on chemicals contained in new carpet. We compared health related problems of my family and that of EPA employees and their work environment. I spent months trying to find a lab or get the EPA lab at Triangle Park to test my carpet to find the chemicals that had made my daughter so very ill.

I contacted Sen Peter Smith's office to see if they could get the EPA to test my carpet, no one could help. Local 2050 gave me information on 4PC and where to get a sample of it so that I could find a lab my carpet could be tested for it. I obtained the EPA's lab method for testing carpet and had NTCF Lab in Boston (They have now tested over 100 carpets) test my frozen carpet sample. Marco Kaltofen chemist at NTCF believes we had a bad batch of carpet that made my family ill.

Indoor air pollution is a very serious problem in this country that needs to be dealt with now. Our country can put men on the moon, we can go and win wars while my children, our future, are poisoned from new carpet.

ATTACHMENT C

I want to ask you if we can not turn to courageous people like Bill Hirzy for help where do we turn? What kind of Democratic Society do we live in? How many mothers are going to have to watch their children go through what mine are going through, I pray to God every night that my daughter Kalika not have to die of leukemia (She has had a white count drop to 2000) for this carpet cause.

I think that this is totally inappropriate for a Federal Agency funded by the people of the United States not to be allowed to give information to individual citizens. It is time you supported individuals and children, as they are the future of this country.



Linda A. Sands

CF  
Pres Bush  
Sen Leahy  
Sen Jeffords  
Rep Sanders  
Local 2050

MACON COUNTY PARENTS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES  
845 Old Murphy Rd.  
Franklin, NC 28734

May 5, 1991

Hon. William K. Reilly  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M. Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Reilly:

Our organization is contacting you to obtain an explanation for EPA's recent attempt to take away the Union's (NFFE, Local 2050) right to provide valuable assistance and information to the public.

Our group's effectiveness would be negatively affected by such an unseemly action. Macon County Parents for Alternatives to Pesticides is a group of people who share common concerns about the hazards associated with pesticide use and our goals are as follows:

- To focus public attention on issues related to pesticide use.
- To provide current, factual information about pesticides from national resources.
- To promote a reduction in pesticide exposure through alternative pest management strategies.
- To advocate for public policies that better protect our children and others from pesticide exposure.
- To assist schools, community groups, and individuals with information on alternative pest control methods.

In order to provide such assistance to the public our group must be able to obtain factual information from such reliable sources as NFFE Local 2050.

Rather than working against the best interest of the public by blocking access to critical public information and resources, we urge the EPA to immediately concentrate it's efforts on working to protect the public by investing this time in ethical scientific pursuits and correcting mismanagement practices. EPA's attempts to stop the Union from answering phone calls or mail from the public makes us question what the EPA is trying to hide.

Federal Labor Law gives the Union the right and even the responsibility to serve the public. This communication is vital if we - concerned citizens and federal employees - are to find solutions to the environmental dilemmas we face. Now is clearly not the time to be closing doors to public information access at the EPA. Instead, it is the time to throw open all the doors if we are to protect our endangered environment.

In closing, we insist on an immediate end to the EPA's attempt to prevent the Union from providing assistance to the public. In addition, we have urged our senators and representative in Congress to investigate such improper actions.

Sincerely,

*Janet Orselli*

Janet Orselli, Chairperson

cc: Sen. Terry Sanford

Sen. Jesse Helms, Rep. Charles Taylor

Valerie Strauss  
1882 Columbia Road, N.W., Apt. 28  
Washington, DC 20009  
202/483-8607

May 6, 1991

William K. Reilly  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Reilly:

I am writing to express my concern over the changes the EPA is considering implementing regarding the ability of members and officials of the National Federation of Federal Employees to communicate with the public on "official time."

In my professional capacity as an environmental policy analyst I have contact with EPA employees and follow EPA decision making. I have a very high regard for the employees with whom I have had contact and applaud EPA's efforts to protect public health and the environment. EPA does have a bit of a credibility problem, however, as I am sure you are aware. Whether the lack of public trust in EPA is warranted or not, any EPA attempt to prevent employees from speaking to the public about their jobs or policy decisions with which they are involved will only increase public distrust. I urge you to continue to allow members and officials of the NFFE to speak out on issues that affect their jobs and the health and safety of the public and the environment. They have served an important public service in doing so in the past.

Sincerely,

  
Valerie Strauss

\*Senior Policy Analyst  
League of Women Voters

\* Title and affiliation for identification purposes only.

cc: Bill Hirzy, President, NFFE - Local 2050

**New York Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NYCAP)**

33 Central Avenue  
Albany, NY 12210  
(518) 426-8246

April 29, 1991

Hon. William K. Reilly, Administrator  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S. W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Reilly:

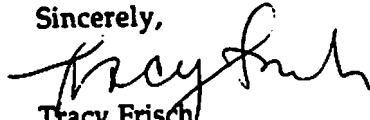
I am writing to protest the gag order being imposed upon members of the National Federation of Federal Employees at the EPA. It is unethical to prohibit EPA scientists and professionals from interacting with the public. Public employees should be encouraged to respond to inquiries from concerned citizens, not barred from dealing with our phone and mail requests for information.

The EPA as an agency does far from an adequate job of regulating pesticides. Moreover, information supporting pesticide registration is difficult to obtain, though registration is no proof of pesticide safety. In contrast, industry interests have far greater access to both information and influence. One of the only counterbalances to this gross inequity is the integrity of EPA employees who generally communicate with the public under the protection of their union.

The NFFE union also plays an essential role in alerting the public and other branches of the government about the mismanagement of agency programs and political decisions which jeopardise the health and welfare of our people and the environment. If the EPA seriously wishes to provide protections from pesticides, this watchdog function should be strongly applauded.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical matter. I await your response and a reversal of this unwise and horrendous decision.

Sincerely,



Tracy Frisch  
NYCAP Director

cc: Senator Moynihan  
Representative McNulty



**John Bower**

ecologically safe homes

7471 north shiloh road  
unionville, indiana 47468

(812) 332-5073

April 27, 1991

Hon. Wm. K. Reilly, Administrator  
U.S. EPA  
401 M Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Reilly:

As a builder, writer, and consultant in the emerging field of non-toxic house construction I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the use of "official time" by the National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE). I have been in contact with members of local #2050 and found their comments and information about the possible negative health effects of new synthetic carpeting to be of great benefit in my work.

I feel that the causes of indoor air pollution are many and varied, and with limited funding for research, important information can be gained from people who have been made ill in various situations. This includes the employees who were unfortunately made ill at the EPA's Waterside Mall facility.

I understand that there is an attempt underway to prevent NFFE members from using "official time" to get this type of information out when they are contacted by individuals like myself or people whose health has been compromised after carpeting was installed in their home. I feel that such a policy is detrimental to the purpose of an agency like the EPA and I hope that a free exchange of ideas will be possible in the future. The NFFE employees that I have spoken to have been both professional and competent in their comments to me and I hope that their comments will be as equally forthcoming in the future.

I urge you to allow NFFE employees the use of "official time" to continue the important work that they have been doing.

Sincerely,

John Bower

cc: Bill Hirzy



# NATIONAL TOXIC CAMPAIGN FUND

1168 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass. 02134  
(617) 232-0327 Fax: (617) 232-3945

Hon. William K. Reilly, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

April 16, 1991

Dear Mr. Reilly:

On behalf of the Citizens' Environmental Laboratory I need to express my dismay at policies which restrict our access to important scientific and other public information. In the past two years we have repeatedly been assisted by EPA staffers who also represent NFFE Local 2050. We are concerned that this useful communication will be terminated.

Our laboratory is designed specifically to address the technical needs of individuals and grassroots environmental groups. We have received critical aid from members of Local 2050. Their assistance has made it possible for our laboratory to develop new analytical methods, and provide better services to victims of chemical exposures.

In 1989 we began to receive the first of what became hundreds of requests to analyze toxic organic compounds in carpeting and indoor air. Without the assistance William Hirzy and other members of Local 2050, we never would have been able to successfully develop an analytical method for carpet-related toxics such as 4-phenylcyclohexene. In turn we have been able to pass this method on to other laboratories such as AccuChem of Texas and Groundwater Technologies of California.

We are concerned that new EPA restrictions on communication with union represented EPA employees will severely diminish our ability to provide technical assistance to our clients, many of whom are low income or minorities. We hope proposed restrictions on communication with NFFE representatives is not intended to disenfranchise this type of client.

Please let us know whether we will still be able to continue discussions with EPA representatives, regardless of their union or other affiliation.

Sincerely,

  
Marco Kaltofen,  
Laboratory Director

cc: Congressman Joseph Kennedy  
Senator John Kerry  
Senator Edward Kennedy  
William Hirzy, NFFE

*Other offices in: Livingston, Alabama; Sacramento, California; San Francisco, California; Denver, Colorado; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Litchfield, Maine; Raleigh, North Carolina; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Dallas, Texas; Houston, Texas.*

964 Overlook Road  
Berkeley CA 94708

June 10, 1991

Hon. William Reilly  
U.S. Environmental Protection  
Agency  
401 M Street, S.W.  
Washington D.C. 20450

Dear Mr. Reilly,

It has been brought to my attention that members of the National Federation of Federal Employees are being prevented from responding to citizens' questions on "official time". Would you please explain to me the reason for such action. It is hard to believe that there could be a good reason for stifling scientists who want to share accurate information with citizens which may, if not will affect their ability to protect themselves from dangers to their health. I hope you will reconsider and desist from such action unless there are overriding reasons which you will explain to me.

Sincerely yours,

*Mary A. Rubach*  
Mary A. Rubach

Hon. William K. Reilly, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 "M" Street, S.W.  
Washington D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Reilly:

I feel compelled to write to you after learning that you are putting pressure on the EPA Union to discourage them from interaction with the public, and from providing important information and assistance to the public during "official time".

The Union scientists have provided valuable and timely information to many of us on the subjects of MCS/SBS (Multiple Chemical Sensitivity/Sick Building Syndrome), Toxic Carpet Syndrome, pesticide issues, water pollution, and other issues. While the EPA Administration has been continuing to "study the problems" the Union has been making useful information available now, with the result that some citizens have been prevented from joining the ranks of those unnecessarily disabled by Multiple Chemical Sensitivity and other illnesses.

Would you please make it your policy to encourage EPA Union-members to continue making their job-related work and knowledge available to the public on "official time". I would appreciate receiving a reply to this letter. Thank you.

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

Ruth Guinane  
Name  
4751 Wildwood Ln.  
Address  
Sonoma CA 95476  
City, State, Zip  
June 25, 1991  
Date

cc: Senator George J. Mitchell; Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
Congresswoman Barbara Boxer  
Congressman John Dingell; House Energy & Commerce Committee  
Dr. Bill Hirzy, Ph.D.; EPA Union Local 2050

612 North Eighth St.  
Brainerd, MN 56401  
April 23, 1991

Mr. William K. Reilly  
Administrator  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20460

Dear Mr. Reilly:

Your position involves a great deal of responsibility for the welfare of the people and the environment.

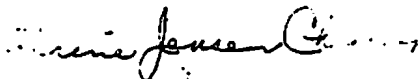
In carrying out your duties, please allow members of the National Federation of Federal Employees, Local 2050, to maintain an open, helpful relationship with the general public.

I am writing to ask you to lift the "gag order" that I understand was placed on Dr. William Marcus. The public deserves to know of the connection between fluorides and cancer. Also, the Agency should not have made an arbitrary judgment on how much fluoride would be allowed in U. S. public drinking water.

Please work in cooperation with the NFFE Local 2050 Executive Board members in their efforts to provide us with a safe environment. When union scientists work to protect the public health and its "right-to-know," they deserve respect and freedom to do their jobs.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Elaine Jensen Chesley  
Minnesotans Opposed to Forced  
Fluoridation, Inc. Board Member

cc: Senator Dave Durenberger  
Senator Paul Wellstone 3:51:05  
Representative James Oberstar  
NFFE Local 2050

W. 5615 Lyons Ct.  
Spokane, WA 99208

Tel.: 509/328-6704

April 16, 1991

Hon. William K. Reilly  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M. St., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Reilly:

I was disturbed to learn that EPA management is attempting to stop the National Federation of Federal Employees from communicating with the public. Local 2050 NFEE has led the fight for clean indoor air, safe water, pesticide restrictions, and the ethical practice of science within the EPA. Please change your policy and allow Local 2050 NFEE to continue making job-related work and knowledge available to the public because censorship does not serve the people.

Sincerely,

  
Betty J. Fowler

cc: Congressman Thomas S. Foley  
Senator Brock Adams  
Senator Slade Gorton  
NFEE Local 2050

626 - 19th Street  
Huntington Beach, California 92648  
June 3, 1991

Hon. William K. Reilly, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Reilly:

I feel compelled to write to you after learning that you are putting pressure on National Federation of Federal Employees' Local 2050, EPA's professional Union, to keep them from interaction with the public, and providing assistance to the public. I find this highly questionable and a serious disservice to the public.

Please realize that Local 2050 has established itself as a very responsible part of the EPA, has gained the confidence of all who know of them, and has carried out their commitment to serve the public with the public's interest in mind. Their high scientific and moral standards should be encouraged in every way, including and most particularly and definitely during what you refer to as "official time". To say on the one hand that you do not discourage Local 2050's interaction with the public, and to say on the other hand, that it cannot be done during "official time" is not plausible or realistic. In fact, such actions on your part will be viewed by the informed public as smacking of censorship, setting up deliberate obstacles, and quite reprehensible.

In these days of encironmental concerns, the Environmental Protection Agency, which was set up to protect the public, must allow and encourage a free flow of information and should not cause the public to lose confidence in it.

The public, including this writer, can accept only one response from the EPA, and you as its Administrator: to immediately halt any effort or action which would or could be a deterrent to freedom of interaction between Local 2050 and the public, including normal, regular working hours.

I will await your response.

Sincerely,

  
Peter Krinsky



The Honorable William K. Reilly  
Administrator  
U.S. EPA  
401 M Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

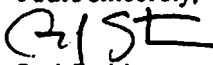
April 29, 1991 -

Dear Mr. Reilly:

I have recently become aware of a controversy concerning the use of so-called "official time" by NFFE members to answer phone calls or mail from the public.

I would like to suggest that it is in the best interests of both your agency and the public that open lines of communication be permitted to exist. In some cases, the information and assistance which persons at NFFE can provide to the public may not be otherwise available. Moreover, it would seem that a union which could not communicate freely with the public could encounter serious public relations difficulties. This is of particular concern as NFFE members are, essentially, employees of the American taxpayer.

In the course of various research projects I have found that it is not always easy to establish communication with government agencies. It is disturbing to think that any policy might be adopted which might make this process even more difficult.

Yours sincerely,  
  
Carl Smith  
Research Associate

964 Overlook Road  
Berkeley CA 94708

Hon. William Reilly  
U.S. Environmental Protection  
Agency  
401 M Street, S.W.  
Washington D.C. 20450

June 10, 1991

Dear Mr. Reilly,

It has been brought to my attention that members of the National Federation of Federal Employees are being prevented from responding to citizens' questions on "official time". Would you please explain to me the reason for such action. It is hard to believe that there could be a good reason for stifling scientists who want to share accurate information with citizens which may, if not will affect their ability to protect themselves from dangers to their health. I hope you will reconsider and desist from such action unless there are overriding reasons which you will explain to me.

Sincerely yours,

Mary A. Rubach



346 N.W. 42nd Street  
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

May 20, 1991

Hon. William K. Reilly, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M. Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Reilly:

In the past I have benefited by being able to contact Union Local 2050 of the EPA for information on a variety of environmental matters. Now it has been brought to my attention that the members of Local 2050 are being discouraged from corresponding with the public on matters of the latter's concern.

This letter is to urge you to continue to allow the exchange of information, which is so helpful to citizens, to remain a part of the Union's "official time" activity. Since we the people are paying the salaries of the EPA scientists, why should we not be permitted to get their input on matters of interest to us, not filtered through the political propaganda pipeline?

The muzzling of your scientists may seem like a good solution to your problems at the moment. However, I believe it will prove to be only temporary, for the people have a right to know what their public servants in Washington are doing; soon that right will become a demand.

May I hear from you on this matter? Thank you for your time and your interest.

Yours sincerely,

*Patricia Moreell*

Patricia Moreell

cc: Senators Mack, Graham  
Congressmen Johnston, Weiss

WM: 13

Carol L. Patton  
3440 Old Gun Road  
Midlothian, Virginia 23113  
(804) 320-0482

June 5, 1991

The Honorable William K. Reilly, Administrator  
U.S. EPA  
401 M Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Reilly:

In whose best interests, indeed, is the EPA attempting to restrict union members (NFFE, Local 2050) from interacting with the public during "official time" (as is permitted by the Federal Labor Law). Does this edict apply to non-union civil servants as well?

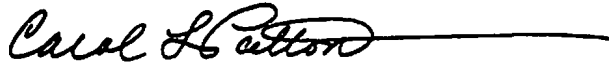
Rarely, if ever, do integrity and bureaucracy co-exist. Notably, Local 2050 is working with selfless determination to expose how politics, not science, allowed the fluoride standard to be raised to an unjustifiable and dangerous level; the shameful action of which will have disastrous health consequences for our population.

The public has a right to question this shocking state of affairs and to receive honest answers from the scientists involved. It appears that these dedicated professionals are targets of management-discrimination solely because they have a conscience, and the courage to act on it.

It is time (again?) to question the ethical climate at EPA, and shine the spotlight on agency mismanagement. I am, therefore, requesting my federal representatives to immediately investigate the thinly disguised attempt to muzzle those scientists who are dutifully carrying out the jobs for which they were hired; to act in the service of the public.

I await your response.

Sincerely,



Carol L. Patton, R.N.

cc: NFFE, Local 2050  
Senator John Warner  
Senator Charles Rob  
Congressman Tom Bliley

W. 5615 Lyons Ct.  
Spokane, WA 99208

Tel.: 509/328-6704

April 16, 1991

Hon. William K. Reilly  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M St. S.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Reilly:

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Sincerely,

  
Betty J. Fowler

cc: Congressman Thomas S. Foley  
Senator Brock Adams  
Senator Slade Gorton  
NFEE Local 2050

1618 Parker Street  
Berkeley, CA 94703  
May 1, 1991

Hon. William K. Reilly, Administrator  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Reilly,

I am extremely concerned about your efforts to prevent the National Federation of Federal Employees Local 2050 from using "official time" to be of assistance to individual citizens. I called William Hirzy a few years ago with questions regarding the specifics of new rug toxicity (which was making me ill) and he was very knowledgeable and helpful. I felt that a government agency was doing what it is paid to do. (Unlike other agencies such as the Interstate Commerce Commission from whom I have received numerous irrelevant form letters and never an answer to my simple and appropriate question, so that as far as I can tell, they exist not to serve citizens in any way but only to perpetuate their own bureaucracy and waste vast amounts of paper in the process.) It is ridiculous and appalling that toxic carpet should cause severe indoor air pollution at the E.P.A. offices or any other publicly funded building. It is also heartening that individuals within this agency are working to help the public and to save their own health. The effort to limit local 2050 appears to be yet another effort on the part of the current administration to totally destroy any existing protection for the health of our environment and ourselves. A government that ceases to serve the people, ceases to be supported by the people.

Sincerely,



Charlotte Shoemaker

cc. Representative Ron Dellums  
Senator Alan Cranston  
Senator John Seymour  
NFFE Local 2050

MACON COUNTY PARENTS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES  
845 Old Murphy Rd.  
Franklin, NC 28734

May 5, 1991

Hon. William K. Reilly  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M. Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

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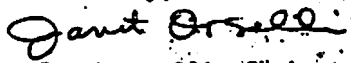
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Rather than working against the best interest of the public by blocking access to critical public information and resources, we urge the EPA to immediately concentrate it's efforts on working to protect the public by investing this time in ethical scientific pursuits and correcting mismanagement practices. EPA's attempts to stop the Union from answering phone calls or mail from the public makes us question what the EPA is trying to hide.

Federal Labor Law gives the Union the right and even the responsibility to serve the public. This communication is vital if we - concerned citizens and federal employees - are to find solutions to the environmental dilemmas we face. Now is clearly not the time to be closing doors to public information access at the EPA. Instead, it is the time to throw open all the doors if we are to protect our endangered environment.

In closing, we insist on an immediate end to the EPA's attempt to prevent the Union from providing assistance to the public. In addition, we have urged our senators and representative in Congress to investigate such improper actions.

Sincerely,



Janet Orselli, Chairperson  
cc: Sen. Terry Sanford  
Sen. Jesse Helms, Rep. Charles Taylor

June 7, 1991

Hon. William K. Reilly, Administrator  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, D. C. 20460

Dear Mr. Reilly:

In February 1989 I became very ill because of chemicals in the newly manufactured carpeting which was installed in my home. After many months of frustration and futility I called the Environmental Protection Agency and spoke with Dr. Mirzy , who satisfactorily answered all my questions.

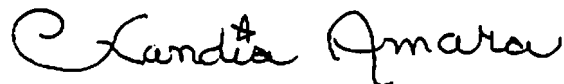
I don't have words to express my gratitude for the support and information I received about indoor air pollution and the knowledge that there were others around the country who have also been affected by carpet chemicals. This gave me the confidence to search for medical and legal assistance relating specifically to chemical exposure.

After contacting a dozen agencies to no avail, it was the Environmental Protection Agency's Workers Union (NFFE) that finally gave me the help I needed. This supportive data convinced me of the great need for more public information about this issue.

The NFFE is an effective link between the E.P.A. and people like me. It keeps channels of information open and clear. Without Dr. Hirzy's conscientious concern and professional expertise, my personal situation could have become much worse.

PLEASE!! In the name of all of us who have benefitted, and for the sake of all those in the future who will need this point of contact--- ALLOW THE UNION TO CONTINUE IT'S PUBLIC SERVICE!!

Sincerely,



Xandia Amara



Ariel & Xandia Amara  
592 West Minarets  
Clovis, CA 93612  
209-297-8825

Skunk Hollow Road  
Huntington, NY 11743

June 25, 1991

Mr. William Reilly  
Administrator, U.S.E.P.A.  
401 M Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Re: Union Local 2050's Interaction with the Public

Dear Mr. Reilly:

It has come to my attention that the EPA, under your specific direction, is actively silencing Union NFFE Local 2050 from communicating as scientific professionals with the public. You have imposed this restriction under the guise of "proper use of official time" (sic).

Please allow me to express my surprise and alarm at your action. An attempt to silence independent scientists carries with it the implication that the EPA has indeed "something to hide"; this deplorable action has not gone unnoticed by the public. Isn't your job, paid by public taxes, to protect the public? How does obstruction of information serve that end?

The important contributions made by Drs. Marcus and Carton over the years and union officials Hirzy and Welch are invaluable to the public. Am I to understand that you consider their independent scientific opinions to be a threat to the workings of the EPA? If so, I would very much like to learn why. Additionally, if you have a "re-evaluation" committee to determine maximum allowable levels of fluoride in drinking water, Local 2050 representatives should be included as an integral part of the investigation, for well-balanced reporting.

Please uphold the integrity of your most important office, by allowing freedom of information to the public. It embarrasses me as an American to plead for this right from a government official. Do not impugn the expressed purpose of the EPA. The public is not asleep.

I look forward to confirmation that you have removed this restriction.

Sincerely,

  
B. J. Miller

BJM/jk

cc: NFFE, Local 2050  
U.S. Senator Daniel P. Moynihan  
U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato  
U.S. Representative Charles Schumer  
U.S. Representative Ted Weiss  
U.S. Representative Robert J. Mrazek

Hon. William K. Reilly, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 "M" Street, S.W.  
Washington D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Reilly:

I feel compelled to write to you after learning that you are putting pressure on the EPA Union to discourage them from interaction with the public, and from providing important information and assistance to the public during "official time".

The Union scientists have provided valuable and timely information to many of us on the subjects of MCS/SBS (Multiple Chemical Sensitivity/Sick Building Syndrome), Toxic Carpet Syndrome, pesticide issues, water pollution, and other issues. While the EPA Administration has been continuing to "study the problems" the Union has been making useful information available now, with the result that some citizens have been prevented from joining the ranks of those unnecessarily disabled by Multiple Chemical Sensitivity and other illnesses.

Would you please make it your policy to encourage EPA Union-members to continue making their job-related work and knowledge available to the public on "official time". I would appreciate receiving a reply to this letter. Thank you.

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

*T. L. Anderson MD*

Name

*38 Ash Ave*

Address

*CORTE MADRAL CH 94925*

City, State, Zip

*6/27/91*

Date

cc: Senator George J. Mitchell; Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
Congresswoman Barbara Boxer  
Congressman John Dingell; House Energy & Commerce Committee  
Dr. Bill Hirzy, Ph.D.; EPA Union Local 2050



TO: William K. Reilly, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 "M" Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20460

Environmental Protection Agency employees through their Union, local 2050, have provided essential information to the general public and to persons with multiple chemical sensitivities or environmental illness. This information helps individuals protect against toxic exposures, and helps those already exposed to be diagnosed, treated and compensated for injuries related to Sick Building Syndrome, Toxic Carpet Syndrome, Drinking water regulations and so forth. We consider the provision of this information to be one of the most important functions of your agency.

Recently there has been a restriction on the free flow of this information from the agency and its union. As the agency was designed to serve the public, we strongly protest the policy changes that are responsible for the restriction of this material.

We expect that you will reinstitute the policy and encourage the employees and their union to provide the information that has been of so much benefit to still healthy and presently ill individuals.

Barbara Penko Barbara Penko  
Print Name Signature

Address 171-41 COURTNEY AVE., FLUSHING, NY 1135

Charles Penko Charles Penko  
Print Name Signature

Address 171-4 COURTNEY AVE., FLUSHING, NY 11358

Barbara Moffatt Barbara Moffatt  
Print Name Signature

Address 148-12 12<sup>th</sup> Ave., Whitestone, NY

Jan Penko Jan Penko  
Print Name Signature

Address 8 Woodruff St., Walden, NY

7/24/91

Dear Senator Shelby:

I am deeply concerned that our EPA is not adequately protecting the public. A recent study mandated by the U.S. Congress supervised by the National Toxicology Program linked fluoride to cancer in rats. EPA has attempted to water down this scientific report by labelling it "equivocal" or "safe".

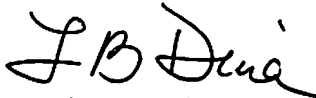
EPA scientists (NFFE Local 2050) have examined the data and feel that there is **substantial evidence** of danger to health from fluoride. They are calling the official claims "...a cover for a purely political decision...and that action damaged our reputations as scientists." They assert that the EPA hierarchy is attempting to silence their voices.

With upwards of 1,000,000 people who will be diagnosed with cancer this year and over 500,000 who will die of the disease, I urge you to protect the scientists right to speak out by investigating this controversy. In the meantime it would seem that the public interest would better be served by not continuing to add fluoride to municipal water supplies until **proven unequivocally safe!**

Having recovered myself from cancer using non toxic methods, this subject is very close to my heart. If you, a close friend, or a family member has ever experienced the ravage of cancer, I'm sure my letter will strike some chord within you.

I would like your clear position on this subject.

Sincerely,



Louis B. Dina  
P.O. Box 100097  
Birmingham, Al. 35210

TO: William K. Reilly, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 "M" Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20460

Environmental Protection Agency employees through their Union, local 2050, have provided essential information to the general public and to persons with multiple chemical sensitivities or environmental illness. This information helps individuals protect against toxic exposures, and helps those already exposed to be diagnosed, treated and compensated for injuries related to Sick Building Syndrome, Toxic Carpet Syndrome, Drinking water regulations and so forth. We consider the provision of this information to be one of the most important functions of your agency.

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We expect that you will reinstitute the policy and encourage the employees and their union to provide the information that has been of so much benefit to still healthy and presently ill individuals.

PAUL T. KERN

Print Name

*Paul T. Kern*

Signature

Address 3405 MT. VEEDER, NAPA, CA. 94558

LESUE STEWART

Print Name

*Stewart*

Signature

Address 3415 Mt. Veeder Rd, Napa CA 94558

KATHLEEN GRIFFIN

Print Name

Signature

Address 3405 MT. VEEDER RD, NAPA, CA 94558

KATHLEEN GRIFFIN

Print Name

*Kathleen Griffin*

Signature

Address 3405 Mt. Veeder Rd, Napa, CA 94558

**Citizens**  
**Environmental**  
**Coalition**

33 Central Avenue, Albany, New York 12210  
518-462-5527

Honorable William Reilly, Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

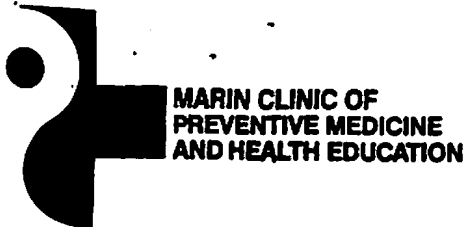
May 15, 1991

Dear Administrator Reilly:

Citizens' Environmental Coalition is a statewide organization of over 80 environmental, community and labor groups representing thousands of New York State citizens. Many of us have been personally effected by toxic substance exposures to the point where our lives have been forever changed. We have a deep committment to protect public health and restore the environment. In our work, we have been rudely awakened to the fact that governmental agencies overseeing environmental and health protection programs are working within a flawed system.

While we have often met with bureaucratic obstacles and frustration in our environmental work, we have also found concerned and committed people within the agencies. It has been comforting to know that there are caring professionals, such as members of the National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE), Local 2050, who are committed to a safer and cleaner world based on ethical science. Many community, environmental and labor leaders have been aided by information supplied by Local 2050 at EPA headquarters on such issues as pesticides and indoor air quality.

We were shocked to learn recently of your agency's attempts to stop communication between the public and these EPA professionals. Citizens are only beginning to trust EPA after the media revealed the agency's mismanagement in the 1980's under Ann Burford and Rita LaValle. While polls show that there is growing concern and awareness for the environment, efforts to gag agency employees will clearly regenerate public distrust. Public employees, whose salary is paid with tax dollars, should certainly be allowed to communicate with those they are paid to serve. Any action to stop this communication is a blatant travesty of justice which should, and will, be exposed to the



**MARIN CLINIC OF  
PREVENTIVE MEDICINE  
AND HEALTH EDUCATION**

Elson M. Haas, M.D., Director  
25 Mitchell Blvd., Suite 8  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
(415) 472-2343

May 8, 1991

Mr. William K. Reilly  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, A-100  
Washington, D.C. 20460

**SENT CERTIFIED MAIL**

Dear Mr. Reilly:

I am writing to protest, in the strongest possible terms, the current efforts by the Bush-Quayle Administration to muzzle the EPA employee members of NFFE-Local 2050 who have, in the past, been extremely helpful to me by providing referrals to EPA documents and project investigators. Their help has been invaluable to me in innumerable instances when other EPA senior staff have either been unavailable or have given me the "bureaucratic shuffle."

As the co-founder of the **National Coalition to Stop Food Irradiation**, I am distressingly familiar with the federal government's disinformation tactics and the perfidious influences of corporate lobbyists and political action committees (PACs) to influence you and other agency heads. The continued momentum of these types of overt and/or covert attempts to influence public policy can only lead to iron-fisted fascism. As a longtime environmentalist and a professional working "in the trenches" to improve the public's health, I demand that you personally articulate and enforce the provisions of Title 5 of the U.S. Code, sections 7101-7103, throughout the U.S. EPA.

I trust that you understand that by taking this action you will be a courageous beacon of enlightenment for other senior members of the Bush-Quayle Administration, and John Sununu, in particular.

1404 Judson Avenue  
Evanston, Illinois 60201  
May 31, 1991

Hon. William K. Reilly, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Reilly:

I understand that you and Assistant EPA Administrator Grizzle are planning to end at the EPA the long-standing policy of allowing employees who are members of National Federation of Federal Employees Local 2050, the EPA professional employees' union, to perform union work on agency time--one of the few rights enjoyed by federal employees who are union members.

"Union work" in this case often means work that benefits the general public in various ways. For example, I am a person with environmental illness, an increasingly common condition that often manifests itself in multiple chemical sensitivities (see, for instance, *Chemical Exposures: Low Levels and High Stakes*, by Nicholas Ashford, PhD, JD, and Claudia Miller, MD, 1991, Van Nostrand Reinhold). As such, I am very interested in the common phenomenon known as "sick building syndrome," meaning buildings that are making some of those who live and work in them quite sick. When I heard that Local 2050 had compiled a list of more than a hundred items it wanted in the alternative workspace to be provided for those EPA employees who had acquired environmental illness/multiple chemical sensitivities and who needed a safe work environment, I called Bill Hirzy, president of Local 2050, during work hours and asked him to send me a copy of the list. This list is very important not only to chemically sensitive people but to all who live and work in tightly built, poorly ventilated buildings that recirculate air contaminated with toxic VOCs (volatile organic compounds).

Hirzy willingly complied with my request, and I have made copies to pass on to people across the country who need to know of all the safety measures so carefully spelled out in this excellent list. Whether the union will succeed in negotiating most of the list's recommendations is another matter. For now, the list is the best and most explicit set of requirements for a safe workplace that I have yet seen. The union, and particularly Myra Cypser, editor of the union's newsletter "Indoor Air News," is to be commended for its concern for the under-recognized problem of indoor air pollution.

Mr. Reilly, I therefore ask you please not to restrict these employees' right to conduct such important work on agency time--work that is vital to the public health. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lynn Lawson, M.A.

cc: Senators Paul Simon and Alan Dixon  
Representative Sidney Yates



# New York State Coalition Opposed to Fluoridation, Inc.

P.O. Box 263, Old Bethpage, New York 11804-0263

(516) IV 9-3474

Paul S. Beeber, Esq - 516-433-8882

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MARINO BEVLACQUA  
Astoria, N.Y.

April 26, 1991

Hon. William K. Reilly, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Reilly:

We understand that you and Mr. Grizzle, your Assistant Administrator, are attempting to stop the communication between Local 2050 and the public, and impeding them from serving the public. Frankly, we find this extremely disconcerting and, in fact, quite astounding. It is incumbent upon you to demonstrate to the public that you have its interest at heart and in mind by correcting any misunderstanding you may have with Local 2050, EPA's professional union. For the past several years, we have relied on Local 2050 of the National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE) to answer our questions and provide us with factual information in response to our concerns. They have proven to be an important informational source to us and to many others.

It is our belief that government agencies and those connected with government should be responsive to the concerns, questions, and requests of citizens and community groups, and to maintain meaningful communication. We believe this open line of communication should extend (and has extended until now) to Union representatives in Government agencies, including the EPA. This applies to EPA's professional union, Local 2050.

As you can understand, our organization is very much concerned about the maximum level of fluoride in drinking water. It is crucial that the reevaluation you are undertaking, or about to undertake, must be conducted with total objectivity and in resourcefulness in searching out the scientific truth. We must point out that it would cast a serious shadow if your reevaluation committee is not a balanced, unbiased one, and if you exclude Local 2050 representatives from your review committee. We consider them a friend to those who strive to protect the environment. In fact, if you do not cease putting restrictive reins on Local 2050 and its members, and if you do not keep the doors open to the public (which is the American Way), it will reflect adversely on the integrity of the fluoride reevaluation you are undertaking.

(continued)

## PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE

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Old West, N.Y.  
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Brooklyn, N.Y.  
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N.Y.U. School of Dentistry  
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Levittown, N.Y.  
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Beacon, N.Y.

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MARION CAVOLI  
Hempstead, N.Y.  
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Ossining, N.Y.  
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Citizens Committee for Protection  
of Environment, Ossining, N.Y.  
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Rockland County Legislator  
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Massachusetts, N.Y.  
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N.Y.S. Senator  
Brookwood, N.Y.  
HON. LEWIS J. YEVOLI  
N.Y.S. Assemblyman  
Old Bethpage, N.Y.  
\*In consultation

612 North Eighth St.  
Brainerd, MN 56401  
April 23, 1991

Mr. William K. Reilly  
Administrator  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20460

Dear Mr. Reilly:

Your position involves a great deal of responsibility for the welfare of the people and the environment.

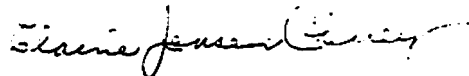
In carrying out your duties, please allow members of the National Federation of Federal Employees, Local 2050, to maintain an open, helpful relationship with the general public.

I am writing to ask you to lift the "gag order" that I understand was placed on Dr. William Marcus. The public deserves to know of the connection between fluorides and cancer. Also, the Agency should not have made an arbitrary judgment on how much fluoride would be allowed in U. S. public drinking water.

Please work in cooperation with the NFFE Local 2050 Executive Board members in their efforts to provide us with a safe environment. When union scientists work to protect the public health and its "right-to-know," they deserve respect and freedom to do their jobs.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Elaine Jensen Chesley  
Minnesotans Opposed to Forced  
Fluoridation, Inc. Board Member

cc: Senator Dave Durenberger  
Senator Paul Wellstone 30 51:05  
Representative James Oberstar  
NFFE Local 2050



W. 5615 Lyons Ct.  
Spokane, WA 99208

Tel.: 509/328-6704

April 16, 1991

Hon. William K. Reilly  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M St., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Reilly:

I was disturbed to learn that EPA management is attempting to stop the National Federation of Federal Employees from communicating with the public. Local 2050 NFEE has led the fight for clean indoor air, safe water, pesticide restrictions, and the ethical practice of science within the EPA. Please change your policy and allow Local 2050 NFEE to continue making job-related work and knowledge available to the public because censorship does not serve the people.

Sincerely,

  
Betty J. Fowler

cc: Congressman Thomas S. Foley  
Senator Brock Adams  
Senator Slade Gorton  
NFEE Local 2050