

(This letter was sent to the Pennsylvania Senate - Environmental Resources and Energy Committee)

June 11, 1999

Dear Senator:

I am writing on behalf of the Citizens Advisory Council¹ to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection about an issue of critical importance to Pennsylvania –excess waste disposal capacity. Your committee is scheduled to consider this issue at next week's hearing.

In response to a request by the Department, the Council considered this issue at its September 1998 meeting. Some of the issues raised by Council at that time included:

- **Cost Increases** – reducing capacity will increase the cost of waste disposal for Pennsylvanians.
- **Traffic and Safety Concerns** – will reduced capacity increase safety concerns as waste must be transported further?
- **Regional Equity** – will some regions be harder hit than others, and therefore bear an unfair burden as a result of the legislation? There may be fairness issues both within and among different regions.
- **Alternative Approaches** – some have suggested that reducing permitted daily volumes might more effectively address the concern.
- **Fee Usage Questions** – what is the appropriate use of the fees charged for waste transportation?

Although these questions remain unresolved, Council supports the goal of reducing excess waste disposal capacity. Council appreciates your consideration of our viewpoints while you deliberate this very important issue. If I can answer any questions, I can be reached at (717) 787-4527.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Wilson
Executive Director

¹The Council is a legislatively created advisory committee charged with reviewing all environmental issues, legislation, regulations, policies and programs relating to Pennsylvania.

ON DISK: WASTE CAPACITY LETTER