

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 23, 1970

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
c/o Washington Post Company
1515 L. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I found your June 6 column in the Washington Post on the "Dramatic Results Unlikely From Replacing Phosphates" to be particularly interesting. My Conservation and Natural Resources Subcommittee has looked into this problem in some detail and we share your concern over the environmental problems caused by phosphates in detergents.

In one particular paragraph in the article you discuss the long term solution to water pollution problems which involves the radical restructuring of our systems of waste disposal and the "manuring of farm lands." While the program has not yet been given substantial publicity, in Muskegon County, Michigan, in my Congressional District a lagoon-spray irrigation system of municipal waste water treatment is being developed which I am certain utilizes the fundamental concept which you advocate. I've enclosed a copy of a statement which I have issued concerning this particular program.

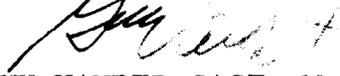
While you suggest that such a treatment system will be costly, and there can be no doubt that you are correct in this assumption, work so far in Muskegon County suggests that agriculture returns from this system will provide a substantial offset to the initial cost over a period of time. There is obviously a great deal of research which must be performed before perfection of the system and before a complete understanding of all of its implications is available, but the program is well along in many respects.

I would be very pleased to provide additional information

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on the system if it would be of value to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Guy Vander Jagt".

GUY VANDER JAGT, M.C.

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