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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

36698

March 4, 1991

Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff
Regional Administrator
Region II
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278

Dear Connie:

On several occasions I have urged the Environmental Protection Agency, Region II to collect new data on the Hudson River Environment before reaching decisions on cleaning up the Hudson.

The most recent data on PCBs in the Hudson are already seven years old. Performing an assessment based on this out-dated information will give an inaccurate picture of the current situation. Seven-year-old data will overestimate the current levels of PCBs in the Hudson and will virtually guarantee that the assessment will call for dredging the river. Yet, it has been estimated that the amount of PCBs in the upper Hudson River has dropped 50% from 1984 levels.

The refusal to obtain this new data lends credibility to the argument that Region II is only interested in supporting Governor Cuomo's dredging plan and is not conducting a legitimate and objective scientific analysis to determine the best approach for cleaning up the Hudson River.

Connie, we have our differences over this issue, and clearly the reputation of Region II is on the line. I am only asking that the study should be done the right way. It will be very costly if I am required to mandate this under the law. I strongly suggest that you tell your people to obtain and compile new data on the current river environment before performing a risk assessment.

Additionally, as you schedule the various meetings, I would ask you to hold them in Albany, since the overwhelming majority of people who serve the relevant committees live in that area.

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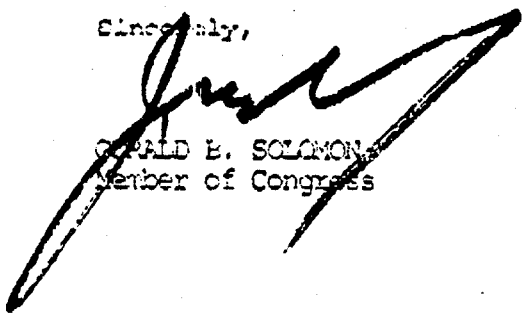
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I would also request that you appoint Tyler Maddy, my Legislative Assistant, to serve on the Science Advisory Panel. Tyler has a degree in science from Harvard University and has researched the process of PCB biodegradation.

I look forward to discussing these matters with you when we meet next week.

Sincerely,



GERALD E. SOLOMON
Member of Congress

cc: President Bush
John Sununu
Andrew Card
Bill Reilly

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