## **G. ROBERT HINES**

Attorney at Law 2525 Kroger Building 1014 Vine Street Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 Phone: 513/721-2525 July 10, 2001 EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.

TELECOPIER: 513/721-2064

Ms. Tracy Ann Engel Trustee of the John F. Bushelman Trust 8544 Highton Court Cincinnati, Ohio 45236-1542

> Re: Request for authorization for Trustee's compensation 4/4/95 thru 6/30/01

Dear Tracy:

You have asked me to give you an opinion as to your entitlement to a partial Trustee's fee for services rendered to the Trust as Trustee through June 30, 2001 and the propriety and legality of your paying yourself such compensation in light of our pending application for an "ability-to-pay" settlement with the United States EPA and the Plaintiff's Work Group Members.

We both know that you have purposely deferred the payment of an appropriate level of compensation to you for your services as Trustee for the period from April 4, 1995 to date. Upon your becoming aware that the Trust was identified as a potential defendant in the Skinner Landfill litigation, you have intentionally refrained from paying yourself appropriately for your accounting and administrative services to the Trust. My records indicate, for instance, that you were paid the following nominal amount over the past three (3) years:

01/14/99	\$ 81.25
03/24/99	\$ 50.00
12/30/99	\$100.00
02/24/00	\$ 62.50
01/22/01	\$ 50.00
05/01/01	\$125.00
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In light of the modest compensation paid to you by the Trust during the period of your administration, I am of the opinion that your request for a partial Trustee's fee of \$1,000.00 is appropriate and that your payment directly to yourself at this time from the Trust checking account and your contemporaneous reporting of it as an expense of the Trust is acceptable. Ms. Tracy Ann Engel July 10, 2001 Fage two

In light of our pending application for an "ability-to-pay" settlement, the reasonableness of this payment, like the reasonableness of any payments which you make to me for my professional services to the Trust and to Jim Mandel for his accounting services to the Trust, is reviewable by the United States EPA and the Plaintiff's Work Group.

By a facsimile copy of this letter to Annette M. Lang, Craig Melodia and Michael J. O'Callaghan, I am disclosing the present payment for your Trustee's fee.

Thank you for allowing me to review this matter with you.

Very truly yours,

G. Robert Hines

GRH/kf