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From: John Viskup [<mailto:jhviskup@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2013 9:17 AM

To: perkins.stephen@epa.gov; Mears, David; ross@mychamplain.net

Subject: Phosphorus pollution

Dear Mr. Perkins and Commissioner Mears,

I have lived on the shore of Lake Champlain in Panton, Vt for over 40 years. For the first 10 years my drinking water came straight from the lake. I currently don't allow my dog to drink the water. At this end of the lake things should have gotten better with the restrictions placed on the Fort Ticonderoga paper mill. Instead, they have become intolerably worse.

The only major change in this area has been farming practices. The government mandated liquid manure storage resulting in liquid manure being dumped all at one time by convoys of tractor trailers and other liquid manure haulers creating small lakes sometimes inches deep on our clay impervious soils. Not only does this pollute the air and require everyone in the area to purchase air conditioners just to breathe, the run-off is the primary source of lake pollution.

I had the State Department of Agriculture examine 2 ponds I have within a quarter of a mile of one another, one supplied from non agriculture run-off and the other with run-off from farm fields. One is clear and filled with fish while the other is a small manure pit. They denied my claims that farm run-off ruined one of the ponds and summoned a pond expert for his opinion. He agreed 100% with me while they continue to deny the facts.

Some farmers currently are forcing the liquid manure into the soil when applying it to their fields which is a step in the right direction. Other farms allow their animals to directly wade into our watersheds and improperly manage farm waste. The laws protecting small mom and pop farms from going out of existence have been taken advantage of by large corporate farms which are only interested in their bottom line.

Waste management practices which may work in more arid regions with lighter soils do not work here in Vermont with our heavy soils and large annual rainfall. It is time we address the real issues and stop avoiding them with more unnecessary studies. This isn't rocket science.

The fact that these fields are treated with thousands of gallons of herbicides to enhance corn production is another very real concern knowing that this too ends up in our lake and primary source of drinking water. We have benefitted from the advances of technology and only now are beginning to experience the ill effects of that same science.

Good luck with your endeavors to make this a better world. It is a daunting task.

Sincerely,

John H. Viskup, DMD