

March 9, 2020

A Letter to the members of the House Economic Development and Workforce Services Committee, including Representative Mike Winder, Representative Derrin R. Owens, Representative Suzanne Harrison, Representative Eric K. Hutchings, Representative Karen Kwan, Representative Karianne Lisonbee, Representative A. Cory Maloy, Representative Carol Spackman Moss and Representative Calvin R. Musselman, Representative Francis D. Gibson

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee:

You may recall my letter to you of February 25, in which I suggested that the Inland Port project would continue to generate considerable controversy.

As you know, Senator Escamilla's bill has been watered down from its original version and now says "the Port Authority *may* establish a community enhancement program to address the impacts of development and inland port uses on adjacent communities".

The original version of the bill required the Port Authority to study the development and implementation of a fund to mitigate the impacts of the port.

My question to you is this—why is it that decisions requiring a *conscience* are overrun by *consensus*?

Two things were blazingly clear to me after your February 25 meeting.

First, for those of us who sat in the back of the room, and for those of us whose hearing isn't as sharp as it used to be, may I respectfully suggest, Representative Gibson, that you *speak up* so we can hear you.

Second—and I say this with deep regret—Committee members seem over-subscribed to a condition embraced by so many elected officials:

Economic development at any cost.

Surely you realize we are at a crossroads.

It is true that our central, southern and rural Utah colleagues are entitled to pursue promising opportunities for new and improved employment.

That said, however, Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County lie smack dab in the middle of Harm's Way.

I'm shaking in my boots over the extraordinary, unprecedented and uncontrolled growth now bludgeoning our home town.

Towering commercial buildings are shooting up cheek-by-jowl with enormous apartment complexes. Our downtown core is besieged by oppressive traffic.

And yet, despite hopeful chatter across so many demographic sectors and neighborhoods, we remain entrapped by some of the worst air in the country. I don't know about you, but I can only hold my breath for about 30 seconds.

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As our Capitol Hill home sits just above the rail yards, refineries, I-15 and all points West, we will come under irreversible pulmonary assault as thousands more trucks, trains, autos and airplanes unleash their emissions once the Port gets going.

Now let's talk turkey. No doubt you're already familiar with that fabulous Pacific Flyway, where birds of a feather flock together and, indeed, they do their best flocking, feeding and mating right here in the wetlands by the Great Salt Lake.

As the Port People intend to position their project in those very same wetlands, they'll have to cozy up to the mosquito abatement folks. And therein lies another reason for FIP—Fear of the Inland Port.

Which is why I have attached a White Paper by Dr. Brian Moench, a leading authority on the egregious effects on humans, bugs and birds of those fearful abatement chemicals.

So, once again, as I asked in my previous note...

Is this what we are paying taxes for?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Kraus, Julie Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "K" and "J".

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Pesticides & the Inland Port
A White Paper by Dr. Brian Moench
Salt Lake City

Pesticide use will become an important issue related to the proposed inland port. Much of the area is wetlands and a haven for mosquitoes and other flying insects that make outdoor human activity miserable. As the area becomes developed via the inland port and the prison, there will be increased pressure for widespread use of pesticide spraying to control mosquitoes and biting gnats.

In recent years numerous medical experts and entire medical societies have made strong position statements regarding the danger to humans of even small doses of chemicals, and their link to obesity, cancer, heart disease, birth defects, reproductive pathology, and neurologic and brain disorders such as Parkinson's, impaired intellect, autism and attention deficit disorder.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Society for Reproductive Medicine, International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), World Health Organization, and the Endocrine Society are all mainstream medical organizations that have, in one form or another, called for a sharp reduction in human exposure to chemicals.

At the top of the list of chemicals of concern are pesticides (insecticides and herbicides) because they function as biological poisons to all living cells, from beneficial insects to humans. Prominent researchers and medical societies have for years advocated a complete re-evaluation of the rationale behind their use. It is increasingly clear that much of society's use of pesticides is cavalier and represents poor priorities by causing unacceptable public health risk for dubious benefit.

Almost regardless of where they are applied, through drift and volatilization, pesticides end up contaminating much of our air, water, food and soil.

- Pesticides are now detected on the top of Mt Everest and the deepest parts of the oceans.
- Pesticides are universally found in the blood and urine of almost all human beings everywhere, in newborn babies, in mother's milk, and in domestic drinking water worldwide.

While the problem is certainly global, for Salt Lake Valley residents, the most important place to reduce chemicals usage in the valley itself.

The most widely used insecticides work by attacking the nerve cells of insects. A nerve cell in a mosquito damaged by an insecticide is almost identical to a nerve cell in a fetus which can also be damaged by the same insecticide. That nerve cell can be just as critical to a fetus as it is to a mosquito. Regrettably, pesticides cross the placenta, contaminate the intrauterine environment, and impair fetal development.

Pyrethroid compounds are the most commonly used insecticides for controlling adult mosquitos. The research showing the toxicity of pyrethroids to human health is extensive. Pesticides in general and pyrethroids in particular are toxic to the brain, associated with a wide range of neurologic and brain diseases, especially impaired brain development, loss of intellect and behavioral disorders in children. Most pyrethroid compounds are endocrine disruptors and as such can interfere with human reproduction and act as carcinogens.

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Pyrethroids seep indoors within any residences where spraying is conducted nearby, and they accumulate in dust and on household surfaces because they don't break down indoors like they do in direct sunlight outdoors.

Children end up with higher blood concentrations of these chemicals than adults do because they spend more time near the floor and have much more hand to mouth activity. Human exposure also occurs because these chemicals linger on vegetables and fruit.

Safety claims regarding pyrethroids do not adequately take into account cumulative exposures. If a woman conceived a child at the beginning of mosquito spraying season, her baby in utero is likely to be exposed to repeated, and perhaps constant doses of the insecticide for several months, during critical stages of embryonic development.

Furthermore, because no one is exposed to just one toxic chemical, or even just one pesticide, the toxicologic studies on chemical exposures never adequately assess the clinical consequences of our cumulative exposures, especially in fetuses and infants. Any public policy that is not safe for fetal development is not safe for society at large.

Implicating the risk of pyrethroids to fetuses are studies showing toxicity to small invertebrates at concentrations of as little as two parts per trillion. In March of 2011 an important study was published showing that pregnant women exposed to higher levels of an ingredient in pyrethroid insecticides gave birth to infants that scored significantly lower on intelligence tests three years later, and the magnitude was comparable to what would be expected from lead toxicity. These ingredients have also previously been shown to cause cancer and birth defects.

In addition to contributing to neurologic diseases, impaired intellect, and endocrine disruption, constant spraying of neighborhoods in mosquito abatement programs creates problems for chemically sensitive individuals.

Multiple chemical sensitivity syndrome can afflict as much as 10-15% of the adult population. For them, chemical exposures can be a debilitating nightmare that includes profound fatigue, nausea, coughing, bronchospasm, rashes, severe headaches and impaired mentation. Insecticides are the most common triggers for the syndrome which can be precipitated by as little as one exposure event.

A critically important study was just published in Jan. 2020 that showed a significantly increased rate of overall mortality among adults exposed to higher levels of pyrethroids over a period of 14 years, including a rate of cardiovascular death three times higher.

In summary, the NorthWest Quadrant is a great place for antelopes, insects and birds, its current occupants.

But the attempt to make it inhabitable for humans and an economic hub would likely involve an unprecedented use of chemicals that are biologic poisons, increasing exposure to all residents of the Salt Lake Valley, something that cannot be dismissed as safe, especially for infants, children, and babies in utero.