Gary —

Monsanto

DETERGENTS & PHOSPHATES DIVISION

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May 5, 1977

Mr. Wayne A. Schmidt
Staff Ecologist
Michigan United Conservation Clubs
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

Your letter to the editor in the April 28 Detroit Free Press raised the question of Monsanto's credibility as a spokesman. I would like, if I may, to address that issue.

I find no basis in fact to your statement referring to Monsanto's manufacture of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) as being indicative of the company's "shortsighted approach to environmental quality."

On the contrary, Monsanto is and has been extremely concerned about the environmental problem posed by PCB's -- and has demonstrated this concern.

It is a well-documented fact that no one was aware that PCB's were entering or persisting in the environment until the late 1960's. Proper analytical techniques and sensitive measuring equipment necessary for measuring these compounds simply did not exist before that time.

As soon as it was confirmed that PCB's were accumulating in the environment -- and long before the total impact of this finding was understood -- Monsanto in 1970 began a voluntary program of restricting sales of PCB's to the electrical industry where no viable alternate materials existed and where usage was restricted to closed situations.

Monsanto also voluntarily announced it would suspend all manufacture of PCB's on a phased basis. The above facts and others demonstrating our concerned posture in trying to deal responsibly with this highly difficult risk/benefit problem are documented in the attached material, which I hope you will review.

a unit of Monsanto Company

Monsanto does care about the environment and is totally committed to operating in a socially responsible manner. We also care about the public's perceptions of our operations. Because we are convinced that the scientific facts support our position that a detergent phosphate ban would not perceptibly improve the osthetic quality of Michigan's lakes, we believe strongly that we have a right -- and, indeed, an obligation to the people of Michigan -- to present our case in a clear and dispassionate manner.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Miller
Director, Environmental Affairs

cc: Mr. Thomas L. Washington
Executive Director
Michigan United Conservation Clubs
Lansing, Michigan 48909

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