



Louis V. Lombardo, Director
1525 New Hampshire Ave.
Washington, D. C. 20036
(301) 365-0412

September 6, 1972

Dr. Jerome F. Cole
Lead Industries Association
292 Madison Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Dr. Cole:

This is to notify and furnish you our latest comments to the Environmental Protection Agency. It also serves as a response to your letter to the Editor of the Washington Post in which you stated "there is not a shred of evidence" linking lead usage in gasoline with pediatric lead poisoning. I am enclosing "a shred" of such evidence uncovered by The Public Interest Campaign which, as a part of its project EPIC (Environmental Problems of the Inner City), is working to define the contribution of lead in gasoline to lead poisoning. Enclosed is a letter to the EPA wherein I notified them of our findings that:

1. The lead content of gasoline sold in New York City since January 1972 has been 60% lower than in previous years as a result of the city's leaded gasoline ordinance;
2. Ambient air concentrations of lead measured at various stations in New York City in 1972 are on the order of 50% lower than in previous years;
3. The incidence of lead poisoning cases (children found to have a blood lead level of 60 ug/100 ml blood) in New York City in 1972 is on the order of 50% lower than in previous years.

While more definitive data is necessary to quantify the relationship between lead in gasoline and lead poisonings I believe the urgency of the problem and the critical stage of EPA's decisionmaking dictated that we make this evidence immediately available.

From my review of the available evidence, while no cases of lead poisoning have been clinically documented to have resulted solely from the ingestion of heavily contaminated street dirt, lead in gasoline clearly contri-

butes to the lead burden found in inner city children. Some 600,000 of these children are estimated to be carrying dangerously high blood lead levels.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Louis V. Lombardo".

Louis V. Lombardo

cc: Editor, Washington Post

LIA-76086