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March 2, 1976

NOTICE OF MEETING ON PCBs

Dear Friend:

I am most happy to invite you to attend a meeting concerning the contamination of the Hudson River and surrounding waters resulting from the discharge of waste materials containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

The meeting will take place on Friday, March 19th, at 12:30 PM, at the Planning Building Auditorium, County Center, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, NY.

Our featured speaker at that meeting will be Mr. K. Saito from Japan. Mr. Saito had much experience with PCBs during the period of 1968 to 1972 when many Japanese people died as a result of PCB contamination of rice oil. In 1972 the Japanese banned all production and imports of PCBs and instituted stringent disposal methods for all products containing this toxic substance.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation have found dangerous quantities of PCBs in fish tissues taken from the Hudson River. The EPA has proposed a zero discharge from all sources by mid-1977 and the DEC has recommended that all commercial fishing of the lower Hudson other than shad fishing be prohibited.

The prime producer of PCBs in the U.S., Monsanto Chemical Corporation, recognizing the danger, has stated that it will suspend production of PCBs, but gives as a time frame eighteen months or more.

Because substitutes for most PCB uses exist, I am of the opinion that steps should be taken now to totally ban these chemicals and provide for safe disposal of all products and equipment containing PCBs.

I hope you will be able to attend.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. DOWNEY
Member of Congress

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