

October 1997

Mayor Barbara Hall  
2nd Floor  
100 Queen St. West  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2  
CANADA

Dear Mayor Hall,

As you know, the flow of garbage from Ontario to Michigan is about to be dramatically increased due to the decision of the Toronto Metro Council to award a disposal contract to Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI). Beginning in 1998, this company will be hauling and dumping 500,000 tons of Toronto's garbage into the Arbor Hills Landfill of Washtenaw County, Michigan each year. To dispose of this much garbage, forty truckloads of trash will be delivered daily to our backyards.

The enormity and urgency of this problem has been overlooked by Michigan's government. Our legislature has allowed far too many landfills to be opened and this has driven down the price of waste disposal. Now that Michigan has been turned into a cheap dumping ground, communities in the midwestern United States and Canada are eager to use Michigan landfills. They are making their buck go farther and we are letting the trash pile higher. Currently, Ontario is one of the main contributors to Michigan's landfills. Even without Toronto's garbage, Michigan received at least 1.6 billion pounds of Ontario's garbage last year! Would you want 1.6 billion pounds of Michigan's trash polluting your province?

We are working hard to get our legislators to see the devastating environmental implications of their decisions. Both at the state and federal levels, we are hoping to get legislation passed that will stop the ever increasing flow of wastes into Michigan.

However, the trucks from Toronto have not yet started crossing the border. We are appealing to you to use your influence to make sure that the flow of trash from Toronto to Michigan never happens. Please nullify the Toronto Metro Council-BFI contract.

Ontario has the landfill space. It's not too late!

Sincerely,

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