

file - Dec - 1985

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 21, 1985

The President
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

In your State of the Union address, you reiterated your support for cleaning-up toxic waste sites across the country. We applaud you for it.

Your help is needed to end a correctable toxic waste site located on federally-owned property in southern Illinois. It is known as the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge.

During consideration of the Continuing Resolution (H.J. Res. 648), which you signed on October 12, Congress inserted \$30 million in the Department of Interior's budget, part of which can be used to begin clean-up operations at Crab Orchard. Congress assumed that clean-up would proceed expeditiously. It has not.

The Department of Justice has halted the expenditure of Congressionally approved money until it feels that a proper settlement has been reached with the private company charged with polluting the site. This action, in essence, has allowed the Department of Justice to prevent Interior and the Fish and Wildlife Service from using any of its money to clean up the Crab Orchard site. It is the residents of southern Illinois who lose by this delay.

We, therefore, strongly recommend that you direct the Attorney General and the Interior Secretary to spend the money necessary to clean up Crab Orchard. The Attorney General can proceed with his inquiry to get a settlement with the operators without halting clean up operations. If the site were under the Superfund law, clean up and settlement would proceed simultaneously.

It is time, Mr. President, that we indicate that the federal government can be as responsible for cleaning up its own toxic waste sites as private operators must be under a mandate from Congress.

The President
February 21, 1985
Page 2

Finally, the specter of a second dump site at Crab Orchard increases the need for federal action--now.

We hope you will work with us to get clean up operations at Crab Orchard moving forward. We would appreciate a response to this letter by our next delegation meeting on March 14th.

Kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

<u>Alan J. Dixon</u>	<u>Wulfen</u>
<u>Terry L. Bruce</u>	<u>Kathy Kasse</u>
<u>Joseph O'Brien</u>	<u>Bob Mitchell</u>
<u>Melvin Bruce</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>Len Brady</u>	
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