

Ms. Kathleen Marsh
1126 Woodhaven Boulevard
Bath, Ohio 44333

Dear Ms. Marsh:

Thank you for your letter of April 28, 2002 to President Bush, in which you support a federal law that would prohibit shipping trash from one state to another. The White House has asked that I respond to you. Please accept my apology for the delay in our response.

Here at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, we strongly agree with your concerns over the large amounts of trash produced in this country, and we support both waste recycling and reducing waste production in the first place. In fact, my office recently launched a national Resource Conservation Challenge, aimed at encouraging all Americans to increase their rate of recycling and at encouraging American industry to recycle and reuse industrial wastes. EPA's Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Marianne Horinko, announced this initiative in San Antonio, Texas, on September 9, 2002. For more information on this initiative, I encourage you to visit our web site, at:

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/conserve/index.htm>

Your specific suggestion that the federal government ban shipment of refuse from one state to another raises important issues, which we and the U.S. Congress have discussed over the last several years. While these discussions continue, however, EPA has focused its attention on ensuring that waste is safely managed, wherever it is sent. And, as I discussed above, we have promoted broad national goals of increased waste reduction and recycling.

Thank you for letting us know your views on this important subject. We share your concern for protecting our environment, and we appreciate your suggestions.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Springer, Director
Office of Solid Waste

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