

Instructions for Letter Campaign

The Letters are already written; Handwriting the addresses show that this is truly from a concerned citizen that took some time to send the Letter.

General

- For each Sample Letter we ask you to make 3 or 4 copies and send them to the corresponding list of officials. You can also print at Home by going to our web site. www.taxreformniagara.com Click on Action Guide.
- The Three Letters that follow have their own set of mailing addresses.(below)
- At the Top - Hand write in the date and the Address of the official you are sending the Letter to.
- At the Bottom – Sign the Letter and add your mailing address, Phone # and Email address so they can respond back to you.
- Handwrite the Address on the envelope and mail – ASAP.
- You can also write in additional comments or a P.S. at the bottom.

Local IDA Reform Letter - Addresses:

1. Chairman Clyde Burmaster &

All County Legislators

Niagara County Courthouse
175 Hawley Street
Lockport, NY 14094

2. Chairman Henry Sloma & NCIDA Board

6311 Inducon Corporate Dr.
Sanborn, NY 14132

3. Senator George Maziarz;

2578 Niagara Falls Blvd, Suite 600;
Wheatfield, NY 14304

Full Compliance Toxic Landfill Letter

1. Governor Spitzer

State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

2. PSC Siting Board

NYS Public Service Commission
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223-1350

3. Commissioner Pete Grannis

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233-0001

State Level IDA Reform Letter

1. Governor Eliot Spitzer

State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

2. Senator Elizabeth O’C. Little

Chair of Local Government Committee
903 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

3. Assemblyman Sam Hoyt

Chair of Local Government Committee
Room 656 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

4. Assemblywoman Francine DelMonte

1700 Pine Ave., Suite 102
Niagara Falls, NY 14301

Date: _____

To:

Subject: Local IDA Reform – Rescind or Suspend the AES PILOT

I am writing to you because of my concern over the AES PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) granted by the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency (NCIDA).

I am a Niagara County Taxpayer who expects you to do everything possible to end this PILOT that will increase my County Taxes by 3.5% the first year alone before other normal County budget increases. I understand the PILOT will cost me even more each year thereafter, and a total of over \$94 Million to hard working Taxpayers.

Our local Judge has played games by delaying the pending lawsuits in court. You cannot hide behind the legal case and you must do more now on behalf of the taxpayers of Niagara County.

At a minimum, the NCIDA should suspend the AES PILOT and not take AES Somerset off the County Tax Rolls this year until the County Lawsuit is settled. AES should receive NO TAX REDUCTION BENEFIT until they DROP all Assessment Lawsuits as originally agreed.

The Amherst IDA rescinded a Bad PILOT and so can the Niagara County IDA.

Please respond and inform me of your latest efforts to suspend and rescind this AES Somerset PILOT agreement that will force unfair County Tax increases on Senior Citizens, Working Families and Small Business Owners.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Date: _____

To:

Subject: State Level IDA Reform – Statewide Standards for all IDAs

I am writing to you because of the urgent need for IDA Reform. The AES Somerset PILOT in Niagara County is one glaring example of an IDA system gone wrong and in need of serious limits and controls. Reform is needed to protect local taxpayers – seniors, working families and small business owners from paying twice the property tax rate of medium and large business owners that work the system. For Example in Niagara County, seniors pay 3% of full assessed value on their homes while big business pays only 1% to 1.5%. (50 % to 66% less than their fair share)

Please make sure that IDA Reform Legislation contains:

1. A provision that no PILOT or Tax abatement agreement will be approved without the approval of all property taxing jurisdictions affected.
2. Elimination of the “Deviation” Clause or “Deviated” PILOT.
3. Set a Statewide standard for all IDA PILOTS with strong accountability measures, business Standards and transparency reporting to the public.
4. Local Employment and Living Wage standards for Construction and post project.

There is a Right Way and a Wrong Way to support Economic Growth. I support assisting business with up to a 30% Discount on property tax obligations for new construction and new jobs only. Anything greater just shifts the Tax Burden onto working families, Senior Citizens and small business owners.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Date: _____

To:

Subject: Toxic Landfill Safety – AES Somerset Plant.

I am writing to you to ask for your immediate action on an important environmental concern currently under the Jurisdiction of the Siting Board of the Public Service Commission. Due to an unusual and old exception in Article 8, the AES Somerset Coal Plant is the only toxic site in the State where Environmental Authority is given to the PSC and the DEC is advisory only.

I am urging the PSC Siting Board to vote to give the New York Department of Environmental Conservation Full Authority over the AES Somerset Site including the Plant and the Toxic landfill. The DEC must:

1. Require a Double Liner on Toxic Landfill #2 under construction;
2. Initiate a full monitoring plan of soil, air and water in around the AES site.
3. Publish Quarterly Testing Reports and updates to the surrounding community on; containment of the 1 million pounds of toxic chemical byproducts buried annually; the health dangers to children and residents; and the potential impact on the Lake Ontario watershed.

The Current Toxic Landfill is the second largest toxic landfill in the State as listed on the EPA toxic release inventory website; <http://www.epa.gov/tri/> Of the 4 to 5 million pounds of processed and buried waste from burning coal, close to 1 million pounds is considered toxic by the EPA and includes known carcinogens and other health hazard chemicals including heavy metals and other toxins harmful to humans.

The current Toxic landfill does not meet Full DEC part 360 requirements of a double liner. One fundamental reason for a double liner is in case the first liner gets a hole the second liner is there to protect the community and the environment from the leak. With Full Authority granted the DEC can simply require that AES Somerset install a Double Liner on Landfill #2 currently under construction and bring the next 25 years of toxic landfilling in full compliance to safeguard the future health of our children, our grandchildren and our environment.

Please write back to me to keep me informed of the plans of the PSC Siting Board, the DEC and your office in bringing AES into full compliance with Environmental Law.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

Phone #

Email: