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DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4904

November 18, 2008

Ms. Jean Sage
W8016 Provimi Rd
Watertown, WI 53098-4246

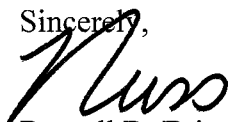
Dear Ms. Sage:

Thank you for attending my Jefferson County Listening Session. At the time you raised questions about the fines incurred by the owner of the Watertown Tire Fire site. As you know, I sent an inquiry to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on your behalf.

Enclosed please find a copy of the agency's response. According to the EPA, a demand letter was issued to Mr. Springer in October 2006 with regard to the costs incurred by the agency related to the incident. The costs have increased from \$663,457.08 in 2006 to more than a million dollars in February 2008. I understand that to recover these costs, the EPA referred the matter to the US Department of Justice (DOJ). The letter reports that the EPA and DOJ are currently in negotiations with Mr. Springer and the other PRPs. The EPA emphasizes that this is a cost recovery action and not a fine because the EPA does not have the authority to assess penalties.

Additional details are included in the letter. I hope this information is helpful. If there is another way I can be of assistance with a federal matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator

RDF/jgh
Enclosure

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