



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

April 1, 2003

Honorable Christine T. Whitman
Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Whitman,

As Attorney General I wrote to you regarding the issue of Canadian waste being imported into Michigan at alarming and ever-increasing levels. Now as Governor I am writing to you once more to urge the Environmental Protection Agency to enforce the protections for American communities outlined in the 1986 *Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada Concerning the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste*, which was amended to regulate the disposal of municipal solid waste.

As you already know, the agreement governs the disposal of hazardous waste between the United States and Canada. In 1992 the agreement was amended to include municipal solid waste. Under the amended agreement, a party wishing to export waste may do so only pursuant to the terms of the agreement. The agreement requires Canada to notify the Environmental Protection Agency of a proposed shipment of waste before it is shipped. And the Agreement provides the Environmental Protection Agency 30 days to respond to an exporter's notification.

In a letter dated April 4, 2002, I asked to be notified of Canadian proposals sent to the EPA concerning waste exported into Michigan before its exportation. A response was never received.

To the best of my knowledge, I believe Canada is not abiding by the provisions of the agreement and the EPA is not implementing the provisions of the Agreement.

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While the members of Michigan's Congressional Delegation, including Congressman John D. Dingell, Senator Carl Levin and Senator Debbie Stabenow work to pass legislation regarding this matter, the Environmental Protection Agency should work to enforce this legally binding treaty.

Michigan has long been the dumping ground for waste from other states and Canadian provinces. It is time for that to change. I implore you once again to direct the Environmental Protection Agency to step forward to enforce the terms of this agreement.

Sincerely yours,

**Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor**

**cc: Congressman John Dingell
Senator Carl Levin
Senator Debbie Stabenow
Steve Chester
Bill Richards**