

February 9, 2005

Scott Hassett  
Secretary, Department of Natural Resources  
101 S. Webster Street  
P.O. Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53703

In Re: Placing an Air Quality Monitor at Lowell School

Dear Mr. Hassett:

In my capacity as the President of the Madison School Board, I am writing you on behalf of the Board. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of recent Board action. On January 31, 2005, the Board unanimously approved a Resolution to ask the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to place an air quality monitor at Lowell Elementary School which is located at 401 Maple Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin. Although the Board's Resolution did not specifically identify which air pollutants should be monitored, the Board indicated that it is absolutely necessary that particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less ( $PM^{2.5}$ ) be measured, as well as any other pollutants DNR feels is appropriate.

The Board has made this request because of several claims by a number of parents at Lowell School, and because of other technical information regarding air quality studies brought to the Board's attention regarding the air quality outside of Lowell School, suggesting that such air quality is having a harmful effect on the 274 elementary school students at Lowell School, as well as the approximately 65 employees who work there. Since there have been questions raised about the air quality surrounding Lowell School and the danger it poses for students and staff, the Board felt that placing a monitor at Lowell was a definitive way to determine whether the air quality is endangering the health and safety of the Lowell School community.

The Madison School District has engaged the services of an expert who has been advising the District in regard to this matter as the District does not have the training, knowledge, or expertise to be able to determine the validity of the claims made about the air quality and its effects on the health and safety of the students and staff at Lowell School. The Board has decided to turn to your agency for assistance because the District's expert has indicated that you are the State Agency with the authority, responsibility, equipment and special expertise to be able to determine, to the extent possible, whether there is an air quality problem at Lowell School.

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I would like to meet with you to provide you with additional information to support this request and to discuss in more detail some of the related issues, such as the need to monitor for PM<sup>2.5</sup> and/or other pollutants and the placement of the monitoring equipment at Lowell School. Our preliminary internal assessment is that the roof of Lowell School (the site of fresh air intake) could be used as a monitoring site. Because a major issue has to do with monitoring for PM<sup>2.5</sup>, we are specifically asking that PM<sup>2.5</sup> be monitored at the school. Given the possibility of other pollutants that might be adversely effecting Lowell School, we leave it to your judgment to determine whether there is a need, if at all, to monitor the air quality at Lowell for other pollutants. We would also defer to your agency's judgment relative to what an appropriate length of time over which the monitoring program would take place.

We recognize that DNR gets many requests to place monitors at various locations throughout the State of Wisconsin. My understanding is that DNR has 38 monitors for PM<sup>2.5</sup> deployed throughout the State. Perhaps if DNR could relocate one of its existing monitors, it would be an easy and cost-effective way of granting the Board's request. Given the genuine concerns the Board has regarding the health and safety interest of the students and staff at Lowell, we are hopeful that you will grant our request to place a monitor at the school. I want to thank you in advance for considering this request, and I look forward to meeting with you in the near future.

Sincerely,



Bill Keys  
President, Madison School Board

/blf

cc: Board of Education  
Art Rainwater, Superintendent  
Lloyd Eagan, DNR, Director of the Bureau of Air Management  
Attorney Marcia Penner, DNR  
Roger Price, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Jane Belmore, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Schools  
Beverly Cann, Principal, Lowell School  
Doug Pearson, Director of Building Services  
David Fox, RMT

# Madison Metropolitan School District

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February 11, 2005

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Frank J. Jablonski  
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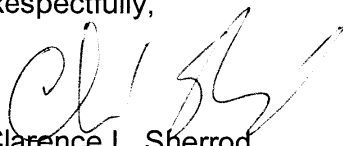
In Re: The Request for an Air Monitor

Dear Gentlemen:

Please find enclosed herein the letter that the Madison School Board President wrote to the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requesting that an air monitor be placed at Lowell School.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,



Clarence L. Sherrod  
Legal Counsel

CLS/bif  
Enclosure