



DANE COUNTY

Kathleen M. Falk
County Executive

June 14, 2006

Brett Hulsey, Chair
Dane County Lakes & Watershed Commission
110 Merrill Crest
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

Dear Brett:

Yesterday's report that coal-tar driveway sealant containing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's) may be polluting Dane County's lakes and rivers is cause for concern. A study in Austin, Texas, and preliminary work by a Wisconsin DNR researcher show that these compounds run off into streams and rivers and can be toxic to fish.

In light of the toxicity and persistence of these compounds, we should take steps to protect our waterways from such a threat. It is worth noting that the sealants used by the County are asphalt-based and do not pose the environmental threat of the coal-tar products. With regard to the coal-tar products used in the private sector, we should move with all deliberate speed to decide if the County should regulate or ban them. The Lakes & Watershed Commission, which you chair, has an excellent record of assembling scientific information and convening public discussion on similar water protection efforts (such as the phosphorus and manure issues); in addition, ordinance amendments recommended by the Commission apply throughout the County. Therefore, I respectfully request that you bring this matter to the Commission's attention as soon as possible. I hope that the County Board and I can receive the Commission's recommendations on these PAH containing products in the near future.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Falk

Kathleen M. Falk
Dane County Executive

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