

[REDACTED]
Ithaca, NY 14850-5209

NO PHONE

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[REDACTED]@cornell.edu

[REDACTED]

([REDACTED])

3 May 2017

Toxics Targeting

Fax: 607-[REDACTED]

I live at [REDACTED], Ithaca, a house I bought from INHS (they own the land under it). I'm sure you're aware it used to be a gas station. INHS assured the four of us whose houses stand on this space that the soil is clean, but I have come not to believe them.

First, the woman who first lived on the corner ([REDACTED]) grew some vegetables on her land, but the first cucumber tasted so funny that she didn't eat any of the rest and stopped growing vegetables. She now lives in Trumansburg, and I do wonder if part of the reason for the move was her concern about the land, although she never gave it as one of her reasons.

For myself, I have dogs, and one of them (recently deceased) was a passionate digger. He was determined to dig over to meet the dog who lives in the yard next door, and to stop him, we had some digging done and set up a grating so he couldn't get through. The problem was that the young men who did the digging kept finding all sorts of garbage: broken bottles, cans, and other refuse. My sister and I kept asking ourselves how it is possible for the soil to be clean on a microscopic scale if it is so befouled on a macroscopic one.

Also, even at the time we purchased, INHS admitted that the City of Ithaca had not allowed them to tear up the street and address the contamination beneath it. Even as we moved in, some of our neighbors on the other side of the street were having problems with the contamination seeping to their side. It seems to me that it certainly could have seeped back as well.

The big problem is that my sister and I are extremely poor. My health has failed since I moved in, and I can no longer work. We cannot afford groceries or any medical care so soil testing is right out.

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I have heard that a not-for-profit organization is allowed to pay for the soil testing on individuals' land with a view to charges being laid, although I grant I have not been able to confirm that. Do you know if that is true?

And if so, do you know any organization that might be interested? I have discovered *extreme* resistance in this city to the most minor challenges to INHS. I had a terrible time finding a buyer's agent who would discuss with INHS an alteration in my buyer's agreement, and I wasn't even threatening legal action (I knew I had no grounds), just asking them to reconsider.

Could you let me know? Please do not ask me to phone. I have a form of autism that slows down my social processing, so I am not good in any more-than-social conversation that takes place in real time—and not terribly good at the merely social ones either. I don't even *have* a phone because I got tired of people calling it and insisting I speak to them. You can reach me at this e-mail address or send a fax to 607-[REDACTED] (no, there is no voice service on that line).

Thank you for any help or advice that you can give me.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]