



Operation Better Start
BERKSHIRE HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.
A Pediatric & Adolescent
Nutrition, Health & Fitness Program

October 11, 2006

Dear Mr. Chadwell

I am writing to support the Center for Ecological Technology's (CET) proposal "Less Toxic Landscapes – A Healthier Housatonic River", an effort to protect the Housatonic River through the reduction of pesticide use.

Berkshire Health System's Operation Better Start (OBS) program provides and coordinates services focusing on the health of high risk infants, children, adolescents and perinatal women. OBS has worked successfully with CET over the past year in educating pregnant women about the effects of environmental toxins on perinatal health.

We have found that as these women understand how environmental toxins impact their health; the more likely they are to change their behaviors and choices.

Strategies to continue educating families on reducing pesticides use will not only help protect our environment and water supply, but will also have positive long term effects on the health of the families living in our community.

Thank you for considering CET's proposal. As one of their partnering community agencies, we are confident that they will be successful in delivering an effective program.

Sincerely,

Cathy Marchetto

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Clinical Coordinator

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