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September 9, 2009

Lakewood City Council
Lakewood, OH 44107

Re: Railroad Companies Use of Chemicals on Railroad Tracks

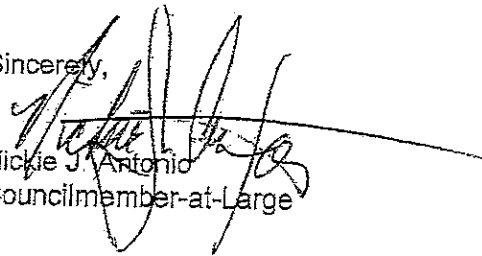
Dear Mayor FitzGerald and Members of Council:

Lakewood has been on the forefront of looking out for the health and safety of our residents. It is with that in mind that I write to express the concern that many of our neighbors who live near the railroad tracks, have articulated this past week regarding the spraying of chemicals along the railroad tracks in Lakewood. I have received emails, phone calls and I stood before a front yard on Gladys Ave. with dead foliage, the apparent result of the chemical spraying. Listed below are a few points for consideration:

- 1) The spraying has been done with no notice to families living along the tracks to even be able to take evasive action if they wanted to- which many would have liked to have at least had notice to close their windows.
- 2) Do we know what chemicals are being sprayed? Has Norfolk-Southern indicated what chemicals are being sprayed and what hazard/safety issues they pose, if any- we need to know what chemicals are being used.
- 3) Homeowners should have the right to refuse the spraying on or near their property through signage. (A neighbor reported she asked the workers not to spray near her nationally recognized nature habitat and was ignored).
- 4) There are many gardens all along many areas of the railroad tracks- how is this spraying affecting the produce people are growing to eat?
- 5) This situation should not continue as it currently is being administered with no regard for the residents of our City.

I submit this communication to the appropriate committee to work with the administration to address this situation that may affect the health and safety of our community.

Sincerely,


Nickie J. Antonio
Councilmember-at-Large