

*Activism*

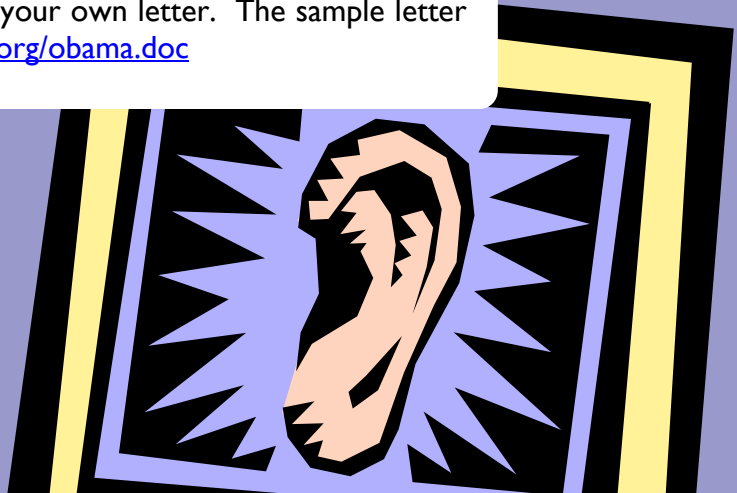
# ***Obama to Hear Your Vision***

President-Elect Obama is hard at work getting our country back on track and he's counting on public input. He needs to hear about MCS and environmental issues, especially with the recent announcement that Gulf War illness is real and likely caused by the chemicals found in drugs and pesticides.

Your vision can be shared with the Obama administration at:

<http://www.change.gov/yourvision>

Below is a sample letter that MCS America has written. It is not copyrighted. Feel free to use any or all of it. Or, write your own letter. The sample letter may be downloaded at: <http://mcs-america.org/obama.doc>



Dear President-Elect Obama,

As you acknowledge the failed leadership of the past eight years, which you confirm has impacted the EPA, and begin to work toward your campaign promise to hold the principle of scientific integrity as an absolute, I would like to bring your awareness to Americans already injured, a concern that requires immediate attention.

Sensitivity to environmental pollution and chemicals has been researched by scientists for 60 years. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently recognized chemical sensitivity as one symptom of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS), but diagnostic tests and effective medical treatments have yet to be discovered. For afflicted Americans, proper diagnosis through confirmatory diagnostic testing would mean better care, treatment, and outcome, all of which would improve many lives and prevent additional disability.

Here are a few documented and published facts about multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS):

- Several studies published between 1993 and 2005 suggest that at least 45 million men, women, and children in the US report various chemical sensitivities.
- Seventy percent of these people have not been diagnosed properly by a health care provider.
- Brain scans show reduced blood flow to the brain of MCS subjects when under chemical exposure.
- Numerous physical abnormalities have been identified in MCS subjects, including brain inflammation, oxidative stress, excitotoxicity, cardiac and airway disease, autoimmune disorders, and many others.
- Mast cell activation and disorders of porphyrin metabolism have been linked to MCS.
- Genetic differences relating to detoxification processes are present more often in those with MCS than those without.
- Studies have shown that avoiding inciting chemicals and proper environmental control is the most efficacious treatment known to date. Ninety-five percent of patients report improvement upon practicing avoidance and 94% report improvement upon moving to a chemical free living space.

\*Citations are available at: <http://mcs-america.org/MCSPositionStatement.htm>

MCS is already formally recognized by the governments of Germany, Canada, and Denmark. Last year, more than one half of state governors proclaimed the month of May as MCS and/or Toxic Injury Awareness Month. The Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Health Observance Calendar lists May as MCS Awareness Month. But this is not enough for American's who have already suffered injury as a result of poorly regulated chemicals and lack of scientific integrity.

1. Funding is needed for programs that educate both health care professionals and the general public about MCS.
2. A committee is also needed to help coordinate health agency research, promote the exchange of information, hold federal agencies accountable, ensure workplace accommodations, and give advocates a voice in policy decisions.
3. More research of integrity is needed as it offers the greatest prospect of returning people with MCS to healthy, productive lives.

I hope I can count on your help in this important matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,