SVTREES #

1585 Colony Drive
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

May 30, 2008

Joe Knollenberg, U.S. Representative
Washington Office
2349 Rayburn
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Knollenberg:

On June 9, 2008, Sunoco Pipeline Company is scheduled to begin a "vegetation clearance" of a 40' wide area above their 8" pipeline, which is buried 8' underground in Michigan. Sunoco will begin destroying a large portion of Cumberland Hills, which is one of the largest subdivisions in Rochester Hills. The Cumberland Hills subdivision is merely the first area in the State of Michigan to be affected. This destruction will span the width of a four-lane road and, in some cases, 33% - 50% of a homeowner's backyard/landscaping/trees will be affected. The "vegetation clearance" along the route of the pipeline will have an enormous impact on our beautiful city!

Rochester Hills is an environmentally friendly community and is known as the "City of Trees". The destruction of our landscaping will lower our property values and impact the many wildlife habitats, deer and birds that share our environment. As far as the residents can ascertain, there is:

- No planned maintenance on the easement.
- No history of problems with the pipeline since its installation 58 years ago.
- No easement language in any documents located to date that require destruction of homeowner's landscaping or the cutting of trees.
- No reason has been cited for destruction/devastation of trees/property except for "future maintenance".
- No explanation why this segment of the pipeline has been targeted first.
- No future plans that the residents are aware of for the installation of additional or larger pipes.

The residents of Rochester Hills are aware that Sunoco was cited in Ohio by the Department of Transportation for not inspecting the pipeline. Is this "vegetation clearance" in response to a federal requirement? If so, it's difficult to fathom that the Federal Government approved/intended for vast areas of residential property to be destroyed!

A Request for Injunction to cease/desist the clearance of landscaping and trees was filed with the court on Tuesday, May 27, 2008.

We appreciate any assistance you can offer us in an effort to save the destruction of our landscaping and trees. Please help us maintain our quality of life, privacy, and property values.

Sincerely,

Lynne D. Weston
Save Cumberland Trees Task Force