



Bion Email to Timothy Carroll, Chair, Environmental Management Council

Dear Mr. Carroll,

Ted Jerrett has brought the group you chair, the Environmental Management Council to our attention as a community body that would be interested in and suited to better understand the science and technology that lies at the heart of our proposed project for Oswego County. We have provided several presentations to audiences within the Oswego community and used those opportunities to answer questions raised, although we have received **no** follow up questions from public officials as a result of those meetings. And based upon the misrepresentation and misunderstandings reflected in press articles, it is clear that we have not been successful in effectively communicating project fundamentals.

Economic benefits to the region will be significant in terms of both non-transferable jobs and economic stimulus. The skilled and semi-skilled jobs associated with our project are real (for the most part equipment operation and maintenance, with some technical and management as well) with real benefits consistent with the skills of the regional workforce and many who are currently unemployed. These are not agricultural, migrant or otherwise part time jobs as has been speculated by some.

It appears that the questions being raised primarily revolve around the potential environmental impacts from proposed project facilities and their operation. The problem of perception is not so much that there is little experience in the region with large scale agriculture –that in itself leads to a fear of the perceived risks and that is why we distributed a link to the Fair Oaks Dairy video which I would be happy to share with you if you haven't seen it.

The real obstacle lies in achieving a level of comfort within the community with the effectiveness and reliability of the technology, specifically the comprehensive waste treatment process that Bion has developed, independently vetted and successfully demonstrated. The ability of that process to materially decrease both air and water impacts from livestock operations significantly changes the environmental profile of the facilities we are proposing. We are working well outside of the realm of historic experience that most bring to the question of large-scale agriculture.

Bion has proposed that a conditional endorsement of the project be subject to a number of requirements including but not limited to our ability to demonstrate actual performance of the technology as exhibited at the Bion dairy project to be built shortly at a commercial scale dairy in Lancaster, PA. Rejecting the project without an attempt to find a level of comfort with the capabilities of the technology as well as the conditions to be associated with that endorsement would seem to be a disservice to the community. But gaining that level of comfort with the technology will require openness to approaches outside the traditional experience of agriculture as well as an ability to look at and comprehend technical information.

Bion's fundamental question to the community is: assuming that the project can show that it meets the standards and descriptions as represented and can successfully pass all future reviews including a detailed public environmental process, is it suitable for the community?

This is the type of community insight commonly sought by large-scale projects during their early stages of development.

Based upon input from Mr. Jerrett and a recommendation from Michael Treadwell of Operation Oswego County, we are hoping that the Environmental Management Council could be an appropriate venue for such a discussion. We understand that the topic of Bion is on the agenda for your meeting on the 20th of this month and offer to have a representative at that meeting to begin the discussion on how to move forward in a review of Bion's project.