



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
STOCKHOLM

OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR

May 13, 2008

Mayor Donald J. Williamson
City Hall
1101 S. Saginaw St.
Flint, MI 48502

Dear Mayor Williamson,

I grew up in Flint, and attended Whittier Junior High. Now I am Ambassador to Sweden and have stayed connected to my home state by working with Governor Granholm on alternative energy projects that benefit Sweden and the State of Michigan. Doing something in Flint has been a priority for me in these discussions. The biogas demonstration project that you are launching today is an excellent example of how international cooperation can offer real benefits to Americans.

During my two years in Sweden I have observed first-hand how cities turn refuse into resources. In Swedish Biogas, the City of Flint has an excellent partner who will help you turn waste from the water treatment plant into biogas that can then be used to power vehicles or generate electricity. They do it in Sweden and I'm excited that they will now do it in Flint. Turning waste into fuel benefits the environment, saves money and generates jobs in the fast-growing alternative energy industry.

I will continue to urge the federal government and the Government of Sweden to invest in this project. The benefits are obvious; the costs, negligible. Just as Willie Durant created the auto industry in Flint when he started General Motors in 1904, so might this project lead to another new industry, alternative fuel, with Flint as its headquarters. Congratulations to everyone there today for taking this bold step to make Flint a better place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael M. Wood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

Michael M. Wood
Ambassador