



To whom it may concern,

It is my pleasure to write this letter supporting Professor Mark Sobsey's request for funding for completion of a health impact study to determine the impact on diarrheal disease incidence of the use of the BioSand filter in the Dominican Republic.

I recently traveled to the Dominican Republic with the Rotary Clubs of Michigan. During my time there I presented information to Rotary on the role of point-of-use water treatment systems in providing safe water to citizens of developing countries, different point-of-use technologies available, and the need for evaluation of point-of-use technologies. Although the BioSand filter has been extensively proven in the laboratory to remove microbiological contaminants, no studies have been completed that assess the health impact of this point-of-use intervention. This is a critical research gap, which is preventing possible expansion of this point-of-use treatment option. Rotary International (and other organizations) are currently seeking models for international water programs that can be supported by Rotary Clubs, and without this information, this technology cannot be recommended.

Professor Mark Sobsey, myself, and other CDC staff met to discuss this project upon my return from the Dominican Republic. CDC is happy to provide any needed information or technical assistance to Dr. Sobsey as he and his students complete the study. We have full confidence in the scientific rigor and integrity of Dr. Sobsey, feel the study will be a valuable addition to the literature of point-of-use treatment options, and encourage you to fund this proposal.

Thank you for your time, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniele S. Lantagne".

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