



# Annual Environmental Merit Award Nomination

## North Haven Citizens' Advisory Panel Annette and Rico Gattilia, its founding members

### Supporting Documentation

#### Testimonials / Letters of Support

Michael Freda, First Selectman, Town of North Haven

Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro, 3rd District Connecticut

Commissioner Amey W. Marrella, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

Robert O'Meara, Project Manager, RCRA Corrective Action Section, USEPA Region 1

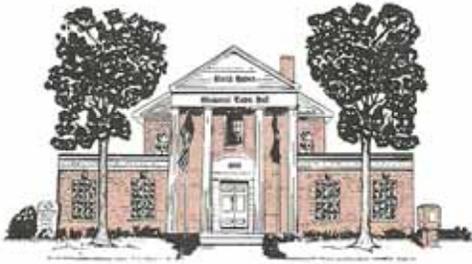
Stephen Fontana, Third Selectman, Town of North Haven and former State Representative, 87<sup>th</sup> District, Connecticut General Assembly

Mary Mushinsky, State Representative 85<sup>th</sup> District, Connecticut General Assembly and Executive Director of the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association

Janet McCarty, former First Selectwoman, Town of North Haven

Kevin Kopetz, former First Selectman, Town of North Haven





## TOWN OF NORTH HAVEN

MEMORIAL TOWN HALL / 18 CHURCH STREET

NORTH HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06473



First Selectman  
Michael J. Freda

January 21, 2011

Tel. (203) 239-5321  
Fax (203) 985-9009

Mr. H. Curtis Spalding  
Regional Administrator  
EPA New England, Region 1  
5 Post Office Square - Suite 100  
Boston, MA 02109-3912

RE: Environmental Merit Award Nomination  
North Haven Citizens' Advisory Committee; Annette and Rico Gattilia, founding members

Dear Administrator Spalding:

This letter supports the Environmental Merit Award nomination of the North Haven Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAP) and two of its founding members, Annette and Rico Gattilia, who worked unceasingly for 30 years for the cleanup and redevelopment of the 78-acre former Upjohn property along the Quinnipiac River in North Haven, Connecticut.

The Town of North Haven supports the recognition of these dedicated citizens for their efforts which are leading to significant environmental improvement in our community.

### **Background:**

In 1979, North Haven residents Annette and Rico Gattilia first raised concerns about potential site contamination and odors related to the Upjohn Company operation at 41 Stiles Lane, in North Haven.

Located on the banks of the Quinnipiac River, the 78-acre property was used for industrial manufacturing from the mid-1800s through 1993. The site became contaminated through historical releases of manufacturing process wastes and wastewater treatment residuals to manufacturing areas, former lagoons and waste piles. Companies conducting historical industrial operations included Stiles Company, Burndy Corporation, Carwin Chemical Company, and the Upjohn Company.

The Gattilias' consistent efforts in raising public awareness, in part, led to several USEPA RCRA orders requiring site investigation and remediation. Over the next 30 years, through multiple corporate mergers and several political administrations, the Gattilias remained steadfast in their commitment to ensure the community was informed and an appropriate remedy identified for the site.

In 1995, the Town of North Haven established the North Haven Citizens' Advisory Panel (CAP) to formally serve as a conduit between the community and the Pharmacia & Upjohn Company, then owner of the Site. Annette and Rico Gattilia were founding members of the CAP, along with Miriam Brody, David Monz, Hugh Davis, Tom Roberts and several other residents.

These original members remained faithful representatives of North Haven for fifteen years through to the remedy selection process in 2010. They continue to represent the citizens of North Haven through their involvement today.

## **Achievements:**

From 1995 to 2010, the CAP met repeatedly with corporate representatives, as well as state and federal regulators. For 15 years, the CAP served as both the voice of the community and stewards of the environment. In 2010, a significant milestone was reached when a site-wide remedy was selected for the Pharmacia & Upjohn Company Site by USEPA.

The CAP was instrumental in ensuring the remedy integrated both site remediation and reuse for the benefit of North Haven. Communicating the vision of multiple stakeholder groups, the CAP worked closely with Pfizer Inc, now owner of the Site, to develop a reuse plan that incorporated both commercial redevelopment and ecological restoration. The site-wide remedy and proposed restoration will serve as a model for future cleanup and redevelopment along the industrial corridor of the Quinnipiac River. The vision includes:

- Approximately 17 acres of land on the western side of the property will be made available for future commercial or light industrial use.
- Over 60 acres of tidal marshes, inland wetlands and upland meadows on the eastern side of the property will be restored as an ecological preserve. This will be the first major ecological restoration along the Quinnipiac River-driven by citizen encouragement and advocacy.
- New open space and ecological habitat will be created on the banks of the Quinnipiac River.
- An interpretive trail will be incorporated into the preserve to allow community groups to visit the site and study the varied eco systems.

The CAP also played a critical role in stakeholder education and involvement. As a remedy decision neared, the CAP worked closely with Pfizer, to develop and implement a stakeholder outreach program designed to clearly and concisely educate and inform the community about the upcoming remedy decision. Their efforts included:

- Review and input on content for the project website: [www.upjohnnorthhaven.com](http://www.upjohnnorthhaven.com)
- Input, review and editorial comments for a project specific video
- Held several CAP meetings open to the public and media coverage
- Participated in and supported an Open House and Tour on the Site
- Attended and supported presentations for North Haven community organizations, including:
  - Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, North Haven Trail Association, North Haven Land Trust, North Haven Senior Center, Quinnipiac River Watershed Association

The efforts of the North Haven Citizens' Advisory panel, and the Gattilias, led to broad community support for USEPA's selected remedy. This one-time controversial process became an opportunity to unite stakeholders behind a vision that benefits all concerned, due to the efforts of these citizens.

Throughout the long and complicated process, the North Haven Citizens' Advisory Panel, and Annette and Rico Gattilia, served the citizens of North Haven admirably. Their time, commitment, passion and resolve brought forth a stakeholder-driven remedy and reuse vision that will serve as a model for ecological restoration and environmental stewardship for the entire region.

As First Selectman of North Haven, I strongly support the nomination of the North Haven Citizens' Advisory Panel, and Annette and Rico Gattilia for the USEPA Environmental Merit Award.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Freda  
First Selectman

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UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROSA L. DeLAURO

3RD DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

January 31, 2011

CO-CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND  
POLICY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES

CHAIRWOMAN

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AND RELATED AGENCIES

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FINANCIAL SERVICES AND  
GENERAL GOVERNMENT

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Mr. H. Curtis Spalding  
Regional Administrator  
EPA New England, Region 1  
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100  
Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3912

Dear Administrator Spalding,

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Rico and Annette Gattillia of North Haven, Connecticut for your annual Environmental Merit Award. After review of their nomination form, I am sure that you will agree, Rico and Annette have devoted a lifetime to environmental activism and are more than deserving of this prestigious honor.

For more than thirty years, the Gattillias have been a strong and persistent voice on behalf of environmental preservation in their community. It is safe to say that their advocacy has not only ensured the restoration and preservation of several of acres of land in North Haven, but it has instilled a renewed sense of commitment to the protection of our natural resources throughout the community.

Since 1979, the Gattillias have been seen and heard at public hearings, municipal and community meetings, as well as many other events and they made their voice heard. They were some of the first to express concerns with continued hazardous pollution by Upjohn the Corporation and have been at the lead of ensuring that this Upjohn's site, located along the banks of the Quinnipiac River, will be redeveloped and reutilized in an environmentally responsible way.

Even today, though they are now in their 80's and a bit slower than they used to be, the Gattillias are still involved. Just this past year, they could be found investigating the use of moderately contaminated soil from an old factory site in Hamden which was slated to be used as landfill cover at another environmentally sensitive site in North Haven. They wanted to make sure that North Haven citizens were fully aware of all details concerning the deal.

Rico and Annette Gattillia have been outstanding examples of how even one voice can make a difference. Their dedication to protecting and preserving the local environment has not only changed the face of their community, but has served as an inspiration to a new generation of concerned activists. I cannot think of a more appropriate honor to bestow on them than the EPA's Environmental Merit Award. I strongly urge you to give their nomination every possible consideration.

Thank you for your time and attention to my comments. If I can be of further assistance or provide you with any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 203-562-3718.

Sincerely,

ROSA L. DeLAURO  
Member of Congress



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**



79 ELM STREET HARTFORD, CT 06106-5127

PHONE: 860-424-3001

Amey W. Marrella  
*Commissioner*

January 31, 2011

Mr. H. Curtis Spalding  
Regional Administrator  
EPA New England, Region 1  
5 Post Office Square - Suite 100  
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Subject: Environmental Merit Award Nomination  
North Haven Citizens' Advisory Committee; Annette and Rico Gattilia

Dear Administrator Spalding:

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) supports the Environmental Merit Award nomination of the North Haven Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAP) and two of its founding members, Annette and Rico Gattilia, who worked for 30 years for the cleanup and redevelopment of the 78-acre former Pharmacia & Upjohn property along the Quinnipiac River in North Haven, Connecticut.

Located on the banks of the Quinnipiac River, the 78-acre former Upjohn property was used for industrial manufacturing from the mid-1800s through 1993. The site soil, groundwater, and river sediments became contaminated through historical releases of manufacturing process wastes and wastewater treatment residuals to manufacturing areas, former lagoons, waste piles and the river. Companies conducting historical industrial operations included Stiles Company, Burndy Corporation, Carwin Chemical Company, and the Upjohn Company.

In 1979, North Haven residents Annette and Rico Gattilia first raised concerns about potential site contamination and odors related to the Upjohn Company operation at 41 Stiles Lane, in North Haven. In 1995, the First Selectman of the Town of North Haven established the North Haven Citizens' Advisory Panel (CAP) to formally serve as a conduit between the community, Pharmacia & Upjohn Company, then owner of the Site, CTDEP and USEPA. Annette and Rico Gattilia were founding members of the CAP, along with Miriam Brody, David Monz, Hugh Davis, Tom Roberts and several other residents.

From 1995 to 2010, the CAP met repeatedly with corporate representatives, as well as CTDEP and USEPA, to understand and comment on the site investigation and remedy selection process. Communicating the vision of multiple stakeholder groups, the CAP worked closely with Pfizer Inc, now owner of the Site, to develop a reuse plan that incorporated both commercial redevelopment and ecological restoration. As a remedy decision neared, the CAP worked closely with Pfizer to develop and implement a stakeholder outreach program designed to educate and inform a broad sector of the community about the upcoming remedy decision. In 2010, a significant milestone was reached when a site-wide remedy was selected for the Pharmacia & Upjohn Company Site by the USEPA and CTDEP.

Mr. H. Curtis Spalding, Regional Administrator  
EPA New England, Region I  
January 31, 2011  
Page 2

The Gattilias' consistent efforts in raising public awareness helped ensure the community was informed and an appropriate remedy identified for the site. I congratulate Annette and Rico Gatillia and the North Haven Citizens' Advisory Panel in receiving this well deserved nomination and I appreciate their efforts toward preservation of an important part of Connecticut while allowing its continued economic vitality.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amey W. Marrella".

Amey W. Marrella  
Commissioner

AWM/dr

# Stephen Fontana

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23 Angel Place • North Haven, CT 06473-2402 • (203) 234-2240 • SAFontana@aol.com

January 28, 2011

Dear Sir or Madame:

I would like to recommend Annette and Rico Gattilia, and the North Haven Citizens' Advisory Panel, for the Environmental Merit Award, based on their record of environmental advocacy and leadership in my community of North Haven.

Over the course of decades, Annette and Rico Gattilia have served as our town's foremost environmental guardians. In the late 1970s, they started asking tough questions of our corporate citizens and elected leaders alike regarding pollution on the Pharmacia & Upjohn site, and began raising public awareness over contamination problems there. Simply put, they stood up to lead the fight to protect our air, soil, and water quality at that location, when others were unwilling or unable to do so, at some personal cost.

Through their perseverance, North Haven ultimately established a Citizens' Advisory Panel, with the initial purposes of educating the public and pressing for a permanent remedy, and ultimately, of monitoring the efforts to clean up the site. Without the Gattilias' tireless efforts to prod local public officials to initiate this process, it's unclear to me how far along remediation work now would be.

Annette and Rico Gattilia are extraordinarily thoughtful, caring, and dedicated people. Based on their deep roots in our community and their tremendous commitment to our town's wellbeing, I am pleased to recommend them, and the North Haven Citizens' Advisory Panel, for the Environmental Merit Award. If you have any questions regarding my recommendation, please feel free to call me anytime.

Sincerely,



Stephen Fontana  
Third Selectman, Town of North Haven  
Former State Representative, 87<sup>th</sup> District, Connecticut General Assembly

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**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE MARY M. MUSHINSKY**  
EIGHTY-FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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**RANKING MEMBER**  
PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
FINANCE REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

January 27, 2011

Dear EPA Region One,

This letter supports the Environmental Merit Award nomination of the North Haven Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAP) and two of its founding members, Annette and Rico Gattilia, who worked unceasingly for more than 30 years for the cleanup and redevelopment of the 78-acre former Upjohn property along the Quinnipiac River in North Haven, Connecticut.

This husband-and-wife team of citizen activists have been aggressively protecting their town of North Haven, and the surrounding region, from toxic chemicals for decades. They are elderly and more limited in their activism now, but still speak up when the need arises to protect their community and the marshes of the Quinnipiac River. The persistent voice of the Gatillias is the number one reason the former Upjohn facility received hazardous site designation and is finally being cleaned up by the new owners, Pharmacia (Pfizer).

The Gatillias made a powerful impression in the late 1970's when they refused to accept any official excuse for continued hazardous pollution by the Upjohn Corporation. They wanted it stopped, immediately. Rico and Annette objected both to the air emissions and the then-common practice of dumping solvents and long-lived organic compounds into unlined pits in the marsh. Although not formally trained in pollution prevention, the Gatillias knew instinctively that haphazard disposal in a watershed area was harmful to them and to the larger environment.

As a community organizer at that time, I worked alongside the Gatillias and remember some raucous public hearings at which Rico and Annette stood bravely at the microphone and made clear there was nothing more important than human and environmental health—it was greater than the economy, the local tax base, and the profitability of a local business. They spoke clearly, strongly and with great passion.

The couple won their first victories when the emissions were controlled and the practice of dumping persistent organic chemicals halted. Upjohn ceased operations and the heavily contaminated site was acquired by Pfizer (now Pharmacia). The Gatillias wanted more: removal of all contaminated sediment in Upjohn's on-site disposal cells. Some of us believed granting their last demand for transfer of tons of waste off-site might be more disruptive to the marsh and release more toxics than on-site treatment of the hazardous waste. With their usual tough questions, Rico and Annette and their committee scrutinized the proposal to treat the material by bringing it to the surface and running the contaminants through a sophisticated treatment plant, and satisfied themselves that the method would work.

The Gatillias are in their 80's now and Annette is growing frail. It is harder for them to attend public hearings and speak out—but a good cause will still draw their attention, and with great effort they will be there. This past year, Rico and Annette investigated the potential use of moderately contaminated soil from the Remington factory in Hamden for landfill cover at another notorious site in the marsh, the tire pond in Hamden and North Haven. They were upset that officials had quietly struck a deal for use of the soil on the closed disposal site containing millions of tires, but North Haven residents didn't know about it.

I cannot think of a more appropriate recipient of the U.S. EPA Region 1 Environmental Merit Award than the Citizens' Advisory Committee and the gadfly team of Annette and Rico Gatillia. I hope the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will honor this persistent couple who changed their town and region for the better with this award. Feel free to call me at 203-269- 8378 (h) or 203-430-0921 (cell) if you need further information.

Sincerely,

Mary Mushinsky  
State Representative 85<sup>th</sup> District (Wallingford, CT)

15 Cella Terrace  
North Haven, CT 06473  
203-239-1913 & janet.mccarty@usa.net

Mr. H. Curtis Spalding  
Regional Administrator  
EPA New England, Region 1  
5 Post Office Square - Suite 100  
Boston, MA 02109-3912

January 20, 2011

Dear Administrator Spalding:

I am writing in support of Annette and Rico Gattilia's nomination for the Environmental Merit Award because they are an inspiration to me and because they have dedicated more than 30 years to fighting for our town and the people of Connecticut. We all owe a great deal to Annette and Rico. They have been pioneers in the fight to safeguard our environment. Also, they were early architects of a much-duplicated grassroots organization founded to energize and educate the public about a hazardous pollution problem in their hometown – and they have been remarkably successful. North Haven is a better place to live because of their decades of activism. We are safer and healthier because Annette and Rico refused to give up their fight for our environment.

In 1979, Annette and Rico formed the group, Concerned Citizens for the Environment (CCE), which is Connecticut's oldest citizen's environmental group ("A Citizen's Guidebook for Environmental Action" by Judy Moulton, published in 1985). CCE's goal was to compel the management of the local Upjohn Company in North Haven to stop contaminating our air, land and Quinnipiac River with their manufacturing toxins. The quest that Annette and Rico began in 1979 led them to meetings with federal, state and local government leaders, to the Board room in Upjohn's corporate headquarters and to the formation in 1995 of another group, The North Haven Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAP) which continues to oversee the clean-up and redevelopment of the former Upjohn site.

I met Annette and Rico in 1999 when I was first elected to the Board of Selectman. I was and remain impressed with their steadfast dedication to their goals. Annette is a powerhouse and worthy spokesperson for the people of North Haven – she does not mince her words. Rico is quiet and careful – he is not sidetracked by scientific jargon or corporate doublespeak. Together they have been tireless guardians of our environment.

As First Selectman, I represented North Haven in dealings with CAP and Pfizer, the current owners of the Upjohn site. The company was developing its final plan of remedy for the site and included CAP in formulating those plans, which have recently been accepted by the EPA and the DEP. Once again Annette and Rico were instrumental in ensuring that the \$143 million remedy included both site remediation and reuse. They were an invaluable resource for me and for Pfizer, which is why the remedy won town approval.

There is no question that North Haven is a fabulous town because of our environmental champions, Annette and Rico Gattilia.

Sincerely,

Janet M. McCarty

Kevin J. Kopetz  
14 Howe Street  
North Haven, CT 06473

January 30, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the nomination of Mr. Rico Gattilia and Mrs. Annette Gattilia for the Environmental Merit Award. Having served in the past as the Town of North Haven's First Selectman and Chairman of its Planning and Zoning Commission, I have had the good fortune to witness directly the valuable contributions they have made to the betterment of the Town and the environment.

Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever does." The extraordinary efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Gattilia in connection with the remediation of the former Upjohn Company site in North Haven proves the truth of Ms. Mead's words as to the positive change that can be effected by two thoughtful and committed citizens. Beginning in 1979 when they first expressed their concerns about the site to the Upjohn Company and the North Haven First Selectman's office, through their formation of the Concerned Citizens for the Environment to advocate for responsible environmental action at the site, to their work on the Citizens' Action Panel that resulted in an approved remedial action plan, Mr. and Mrs. Gattilia have been models of thoughtful and committed citizens whose diligent efforts have changed a piece of this world in North Haven and the Quinnipiac River.

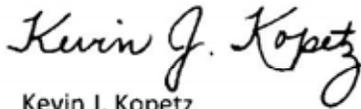
Many of the initial actions taken concerning the clean-up of the former Upjohn Company property involved the North Haven Planning and Zoning Commission. There were numerous meetings on these matters, and Mr. and Mrs. Gattilia attended every one. They were always well-prepared and knowledgeable about the specific issues involved. They played a large role in making certain that all remedial actions would be well-documented, and that the process would be open and transparent to the community. Not only did they attend the Planning and Zoning meetings, but they made the site visits also.

Their appointment to the Citizens' Action Panel was a recognition of the significance of these past efforts concerning the site. Moreover, it constituted a recognition of their knowledge about the property and the need for such knowledge on the Panel as the plans for site remediation moved forward. Of course, as important for their selection to the panel, were the passion and level of commitment they brought to the matter. As First Selectman for the Town, I had the pleasure to work with Mr. and Mrs. Gattilia and the Panel. They proved a great resource to me in terms of the history and conditions of the site. Their dedication was infectious and helped everyone to keep on track and stay

the course, despite the length of time involved, in order to ensure the ultimate resolution of an approved remedial action plan.

It is not hyperbole to say that as to the Upjohn Company property, Mr. and Mrs. Gattilia were the conscience of the community. Throughout the years, their involvement may be characterized as making sure that the community was fully informed of plans for the site, that there was maximum public participation in the formation of these plans, and that the plans incorporated the most responsible actions and best practices for the environment and future generations. Whether measured by their commitment of so much time and effort, or their advocacy for accountability, openness and transparency in the process, or the results they helped to achieve, Mr. and Mrs. Gattilia are most deserving of the Environmental Merit Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin J. Kopetz". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kevin J. Kopetz