



*Do The Right Thing ....*  
*Athens, Georgia*

Do The Right Thing Center for  
Responsible Decision-Making  
Athens, Georgia

April 1, 2003

Dear Mrs. Bryant and Students,

My name is Dr. P. B. Learner and I am writing from the Do The Right Thing Center for Responsible Decision-Making. We are a non-profit consulting company dedicated to ethically acceptable economic, social, and environmental choices in business. Since we are a not-for-profit organization we recruit volunteers to conduct searches for us, recommend possible solutions for problems, and provide appropriate rationales and support for those solutions. Typically, we find that middle school students are particularly adept at providing this service, primarily because of their fluency with web environments where they would do much of the searching. We hope that the work will be a learning experience for the students as well.

We have been approached by a committee from the eastern northern Ohio Lake Erie border that calls itself the Islands Development Board; and they are asking for advice on a building project. Since the project is being conducted in your state, and because your students as Ohio residents might have an interest in the ethical decisions in this effort, we decided to request your help. I have provided background information for you on an attached page. I can also be reached for more information at the e-mail address below my signature. I do have, however, only a limited amount of knowledge on the specifics of this case and have a very difficult time catching up with the island folks to get the information from them. You will likely have to conduct your own search to find more specific information. We are assured you can do that and do it well. In any case, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your contributions to the on-going effort to make the world a better place through responsible decision-making.

Sincerely,

Dr. P. B. Learner, Director  
Do The Right Thing Center for Responsible Decision-Making  
drpblearner@yahoo.com

## Background for the Island Development Board Project

On Lake Erie as a part of Ohio are multiple islands where there are small populations and big tourist businesses. The citizens of these islands worry about the loss of their natural resources and ways of living on their mostly quiet islands. Three of those islands, South Bass Island, Middle Bass Island and Kellys Island, each send citizen representatives to an Islands Development Board. The Board has decided to pursue a grant to fund the construction of 22 houses across the three islands. The funding source for the grant requires that the islands collaborate on the housing projects. Based on their populations (and subsequent tax base), Middle Bass Island and Kellys Island have agreed to collaborate on building 15 houses between them on their two islands. Kellys Island and South Bass Island have agreed to collaborate on a total of 12 houses to be built on their two islands; and Middle Bass Island and South Bass Island agreed to collaborate on 17 houses between them built on their two islands.

The members of the island development board are concerned about the impact of this development project on their overall economies, environments, and socio-cultural systems. They have recently experienced much internal controversy on the islands over the growth of businesses and how they might disrupt the natural resources of the islands. Plus, there are historical initiatives that are concerned as well, particularly those honoring the Native American roots of these islands. Before submitting the grant proposal, the board asks the Do The Right Thing Center for Responsible Decision-Making for advice. This company has been approached because of its reputation for considering environmental and social systems in its recommendations.

The board included a diagram of the three islands for the Center's use in considering the situation. They expect a report with appropriate mathematical representations (graphs and computations), descriptions, theories and solutions that they can share with their populations and send their thank you in advance for the Center's assistance.

