

# Letter of Concern to KNBC

Joanna Gerber

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To: todd.mokhtari@nbcuni.com <todd.mokhtari@nbcuni.com>; Grover, Joel (NBCUniversal, KNBC) <Joel.Grover@nbcuni.com>;

Cc: stacy.owen@nbcuni.com <stacy.owen@nbcuni.com>;



American  
Jewish  
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May 4, 2016

Dear Mr. Mokhtari and Mr. Grover:

We have watched the trailer for tonight's broadcast and listened to Mr. Grover's interview with Peter Tilden with great concern.

We remain concerned that Mr. Grover has ignored all of the facts available to him about the safety of the Brandeis-Bardin Campus (BBC). The safety of BBC has been examined at great length and as KNBC is aware, a second independent consultant has completed their study of the BBC, and those findings **definitively confirm the safety of the property**. Regrettably, Mr. Grover has lumped BBC into one large pile of villains, dismissing the evidence provided by anyone who does not agree with his thesis. Mr. Grover's so-called investigation is an undifferentiated "the sky is falling" tale - the kind of spectacular story intended to draw attention with little attention to actual facts. The complex nature of the scientific findings appears to have eluded your writers and your editors. They have all of the facts before them, and we would expect that KNBC not air a segment that is full of false statements and reckless innuendo.

We remain concerned that the piece you plan on airing tonight might defame BBC by implying that wrongful conduct has been perpetrated by AJU or that the safety of our campers or visitors to our campus has in some manner been compromised. KNBC has been provided with ample evidence to the contrary and knows well that there is no health risk associated with the Brandeis-Bardin Campus. Additionally, in keeping with our commitment to transparency, we have posted on our website all relevant information and test results known to us.

When questions were first raised about the safety of the campus, we provided a full range of information on our website, including extensive test results. All confirmed test readings demonstrate that the campus poses no risk to health or safety. As far back as 1995, the EPA determined Brandeis-Bardin to be safe, declaring "...the theoretical cancer probability or risk to campers and camp counselors is less than the EPA's threshold level for action of one in 1,000,000." (*EPA Update*, July 1997)

We hope the piece that airs tonight makes it perfectly clear to your viewers that despite years of regular testing showing our property to be safe, AJU committed to hiring yet another independent

consultant to review previous studies and conduct additional testing. We did so out of an abundance of caution in order to evaluate once again any effects the operations at the neighboring Field Laboratory might have had on our campus. The results of that testing are clear and unequivocal. To suggest otherwise is to distort the truth.

Finally, based on the questions KNBC posed to us, and the promo that we have seen, it appears KNBC will try to discredit the study, as Mr. Grover did this morning on the Peter Tilden show, both by attempting to create doubt about the credentials of its author (Tetra Tech, Inc.) and by ignoring its basic findings in favor of misleading speculation. With regard to Tetra Tech, we provided KNBC with ample evidence that the incident Mr. Grover cited was handled by Tetra Tech in a highly ethical and professional manner, including self-reporting the incident to the NRC. Furthermore, when the incident occurred five years ago, Tetra Tech took appropriate action with respect to the very few employees involved, including suspensions and outright dismissals.

Finally, we hope that you will do as we have done, and post the full text of our recent exchanges and our responses to your questions so that your viewers may make their own judgment.

Sincerely,

Joanna Gerber, EdD  
Vice President, Communications & Marketing  
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