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Unilever
800 Sylvan Avenue
Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632
ATTN: Lipton Tea Division

Dear Tea-Makers,

I enjoyed a glass of freshly brewed Lipton iced tea with my wife the other day. We often like to do that while we read the evening paper together. I work the crossword puzzle while she reads the horoscope, obituaries, and advice column. I once wrote a letter to an advice column, but they did not print it. I also recently wrote a letter to the editor of my local newspaper about the horrible spelling and grammar that appears daily in the paper, but they haven't printed that letter either. I hate censorship, especially by small town newspapers. If I could get my crossword puzzles through another source, I would cancel my newspaper subscription outright! But I find that working crossword puzzles has enhanced my vocabulary, so I would rather suffer through shoddy news writing than go without my daily crossword.

But back to my point regarding your tea... Our well water often has an odd flavor to it, so we drink iced tea to mask the peculiar taste of our water. Under normal conditions we have rusty - discolored water flowing from our tap in the house. The coloration is usually accompanied by a metallic rusty taste. Some days it is stronger than others. At one point we discussed buying bulk bottled water to drink, but I heard that the bottled water companies add chemicals and such to their water. While I expect chemicals, additives, and preservatives in my canned and processed foods, I don't like the idea of added chemicals to supposedly fresh spring water. Especially if I am paying for the damn water! So we decided not to go for the bottled water and stick with making iced tea out of our rusty water.

Yesterday, I finished my crossword puzzle faster than usual. So I pulled my used Lipton tea bag out of the trash to see what new things I might learn. (I would rather read the back of a box of tea bags than my local newspaper some days.) That is when I noticed that Lipton tea is/contains an antioxidant. I knew what that meant right away without having to look it up in our Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. (We have the 10th Edition, which I personally find is the best version for working crossword puzzles).

I'm not sure why it alarmed me so much to discover the antioxidant quality of your tea, but it did. Lipton iced tea can keep my chain link fence or old tractor from getting rusty?!? Given that

my given name is Rusty, I have always had a liking for old rusty cars and farm equipment or sheds. I'm not talking about junk yards, I am talking about the lonely old tractor in the field that has definitely seen better days, but you can tell that it was a hell of a workhorse back in its prime. And except when it is really strong or dark, I have even developed a bit of a taste for the rusty water at certain times.

I am not opposed to using antioxidants to keep items from rusting to pieces to the point that they are useless. I am not opposed to industries applying antioxidants to oil refinery pipelines and valves to keep them from deteriorating and ruining the quality of gasoline that I put into my car. But it scares me to think that I am ingesting these antioxidants every time I drink Lipton iced tea.

I know that your parent company, Unilever, is also a major player in the cleaning agent and personal care product markets. I shudder to think that these cleansers might be included in your company's food or drink products as well. I don't want to think what antioxidants can do to my insides -- especially when I have been Rusty since the day I was born! Will the antioxidants react with any rusty water that may remain in my system? If so, how will that affect me? I did have a bit of an upset belly and a heck of a case of the burps the past few weeks, but I attributed that to some bad hamburger meat with too much garlic seasoning. Could it have been the antioxidants reacting with rusty water?

The containers of Tarn-X we always used on Granny's old silver all said that you should not eat the contents. Now I know that tarnish on fine silver is not the same thing as rust on steel or other metals, but I would think that anything that prevents steel from rusting would have to contain chemicals as powerful as (or more powerful than) those necessary to remove/prevent silver tarnish. Wouldn't you say?

Do you offer any non-antioxidant blends of Lipton tea? If so, I would prefer to drink that type of Lipton tea. If you do not have any teas that are non hostile toward rust I will have to switch to a different brand. I hope to avoid that if possible. Please let me know.

Sincerely,



Rusty Lucas

p.s. Do you have any Lipton baseball caps? Please send me one for free. I hear that the new fashion craze this summer for middle aged men is shorts and sandals with dark socks and a baseball cap worn backwards. I am nothing if not hip. It will be doubly impressive if I am "Lipton Hip", or "Hip with Lipton." Which expression do you prefer? I think I like the second one better. You can use that slogan in your market push for a wider consumer demographic.