Dear Sue,

I am thankful that you asked for my help regarding this urgent matter, and I would like to help you to the best of my ability. I would like to advise you not only in the fashion of professional advisor but also as a friend. I am sure that you do remember my stance regarding any political or economic issues, which makes this problem harder for me to assess. As you may remember, I am one of Jehovah’s Witnesses, and it is for this reason that I do not side with any specific party or ideas. However, I can direct you to how you should think and act going forward using practical advice written by men inspired by God long ago. Recall that I live my life guided by Bible principles and counsel and I will use this to help you as I have seen in my life its success in guiding my decisions.

First, I would like to remind you of the first Fundamental Canon of the code of ethics of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) which says that “Engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public in the performance of their professional duties”. This takes precedence over the fourth which dictates that “Engineers shall act in professional matters for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees”. While the Bible does mention that money serves as a protection in life, it is not the most important thing in life. No matter what, the health and well-being of a person has always been put over any economical means. Of course, you do not want to harm your supervisor in any way economically or the company for that matter, but if God puts health over money and has not changed his mind for thousands of years, why should we fight against it?

Second, while the community may side with your supervisor implicating that plant product benefits the community economically, I beg that you don’t forget that anything could happen in the future with the compound. While your supervisor might think that a modification may eliminate the compound, questioning the health problems produced, and that the health problems are not fatal in any case, why should you risk it? The Bible mentions that “one is wise if he sees the danger ahead and proceeds to hide”. No matter how minimal the risk may be whether now or in the future, eliminate it for your sake and others. I wouldn’t want the situation to aggravate and see you in the middle of lawsuit for not speaking up.

Third, I have learned that the Bible does not tolerate lying. The consequences could be compared to your compound. Lying or hiding information spreads quickly, and the more and more you do it, the harder it is to contain, to the point where you can’t. Sooner or later, the truth will come out. And when it does, two things will happen in your case. The most obvious of the two implicates you and your supervisor as being the masterminds of the hidden information. The other is that the true intentions of the community and its support will be in broad daylight. Their drive for money and the “gifts” it can buy will show the selfishness that resides in their heart.

As you may have noted thus far, I am not speaking of any overtly religious topics that may be sensitive to some groups should you choose to share this information. Rather, they are practical advice from a book inspired by our Creator, he who knows us better than anyone. God himself says that “he is our guide, and I want is for you to be happy in all your paths” in life. I share this information as I see it as my opinion. Do not let economic issues drive your decisions. There will forever be a different way of making money for you and the community. You won’t, however, have all your friends, family, and community members forever. They come and go. Keep them as long as you can and don’t put their life on the line for some extra dollars. I appreciate your time and the fact that you reached out to me. I hope it won’t be the last.

Sincerely,

Matthew Zaldana