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Isotopes Supply [1992]

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FROM: MASON, James O.: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

TO: DR. D.A. BROMLEY

DATE OF
CORRESPONDENCE: 11/20/92

SUBJECT: RE: DR. SCHROEDER'S PRESENTATION ON THE CRITICAL
NATIONAL SHORTAGE OF STABLE AND RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPES
FOR CLINICAL AND RESEARCH APPLICATIONS.

DIRECTORATE STAFF
ASSIGNED: FCCSET ASSIGNED:

ACTION STAFF
REQUIRED: AS NECESSARY ACTION:

SENDER'S DUE DATE:
OSTP DUE DATE: 12/16/92 STAFF DUE DATE
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COPIES TO: D. Allan Bromley
PHYSICAL SCIENCES
INDUSTRIAL
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

NOV 20 1992

Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Health
Washington DC 20201

The Honorable D. Allan Bromley
Assistant to the President
for Science and Technology
Office of Science and Technology Policy
358 Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Dr. Bromley:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the leadership that you have shown in focussing attention on the critical national shortage of stable and radioactive isotopes for clinical and research applications. As you know, Dr. Lee Schroeder gave a presentation on the issue to my Committee on Life Sciences and Health (CLSH) last month (October 2). His presentation was excellent, by the way, and engaged the Committee with a lively discussion of several possible follow-up options. The options he presented were the following:

- Should a standing committee under FCCSET be established with oversight and coordination responsibility for this issue?
- Should FCCSET create an ad hoc committee or task an existing committee for this purpose?
- Should consideration be given to creation of a dedicated isotopes-production capability, such as the proposed biomedical tracer facility?

CLSH concluded, and I concur, that resolution of the isotopes shortage appears best suited for assignment to a standing committee dedicated to resolution of the issue. Furthermore, I concur with the participants that the best approach would be to create a committee that would report directly to FCCSET, perhaps through the newly formed Critical Technologies Institute.

To reiterate, the availability of stable and radioactive isotopes is of extraordinary importance to the clinical and research communities in the United States. Stability of this supply is essential. We thank you for your personal commitment to resolution of this problem.

Sincerely yours,

James O. Mason, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Assistant Secretary for Health