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ROUTING SLIP

FROM: Jack Quinn
Office of the Vice President

DATE: 7/22/93

TO:

Dennis Alpert _____

Todd Campbell _____

Leon Fuerth _____

Skila Harris _____

Elaine Kamarck _____

Goody Marshall _____

Katie McGinty _____

Beth Prichard _____

Marla Romash _____

Greg Simon _____

Tony Wilson _____

Other _____

FOR YOUR:

Action _____

Comments _____

Information _____

_____ For the Vice President

_____ Please See Me

Pam
see me
re: this

cc: Cathy - per suggestions re: REGO + EPA;
let's insure that these are
addressed in the EPA review.

Keith - per re: RSD agenda.
did you attend the staff
RSD meeting??

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

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July 22 , 1993

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I applaud formation of your recently-announced Council on Sustainable Development to craft U.S. policies which simultaneously encourage economic growth, job creation and environmental protection. Like you, I recognize that environmental protection and strong, sustainable economic growth can and must go hand in hand. This new Council, headed by recognized leaders in industry and the environmental community, brings an impressive range of experience, expertise and innovative thinking to bear on our common goal of encouraging economic development, enhancing American competitiveness and providing for the wise and efficient use of our Nation's resources.

While one of the Council's more important tasks will be addressing implementation of "Agenda 21", the international policy declarations agreed to by the U.S. and other nations last year, I was pleased to see your announcement identify other important Council mandates as well. Chief among these, in my view, will be development of strategies in several key issue-specific areas, such as establishment of environmental priorities and identifying and promoting cost-efficient and environmentally-sound manufacturing processes. It is primarily about these other mandates, and possible expansion of them, that I write today.

As you know, the House and Senate have before them legislative proposals which would elevate the Environmental Protection Agency to cabinet status. Provisions in both the Senate-passed bill and in similar legislation being discussed in the House (both of which were formulated prior to your announced Council) would establish a new Commission to address management and other important problems confronting EPA and our environmental protection efforts. I believe that the goals of these Congressionally-proposed Commissions

can be effectively integrated into the work of your new Council on Sustainable Development and with the Vice President's Performance Review effort, thereby obviating the need for yet another multi-million dollar Commission.

For example, the proposal which I put forward earlier this year would, in part, require a new Commission to address the critical subject of improved linkage between identified risk priorities and allocation of scarce EPA resources -- in short, better targeting our limited public and private resources to those areas which represent the greatest environmental and health risks.

As you know, at present there is a distinct mismatch between EPA's spending priorities (together with the private sector costs resulting from those priorities) and risk to human health and the environment. This is especially noticeable in underfunding of certain high risk problems such as drinking water and indoor air quality, while at the same time we are spending very considerable sums (both public and private) on other areas that present less risk to human health and the environment. Without addressing this issue in a deliberate and comprehensive manner, public and private efforts at environmental protection may be substantially wasted.

Additionally, in recent EPA cabinet-status hearings before the House Government Operations Committee, numerous witnesses pointed out that the current structure of EPA thwarts effective efforts to address pollution on an efficient, systematic, media-integrated basis. The current fragmented approach may result in a more expensive, less flexible and less environmentally-sound regulatory scheme. It is clear from this and other evidence that a thorough examination is needed of ways to improve multi-media and pollution prevention approaches to environmental problems.

Moreover, the Commission I proposed, as originally envisioned, would have been required to: identify methods of encouraging and coordinating innovative approaches to federal permitting activities; enhancing implementation of pollution prevention activities and promoting cost-efficient cross-media activities; examining the benefits of a national environmental strategy; and reviewing public and private resource efficiencies which could result from consolidation of federal environmental programs.

As you can see, the mandates of this proposed Commission fit nicely with the overall mandates and goals of your own Council on Sustainable Development, including its examination of environmental priorities. Moreover, your new Council is especially well-suited to confront these longstanding structural and policy questions (including better linkage between risks and allocation of resources), inasmuch as its membership brings a wealth of relevant history, expertise and varied viewpoints to the table.

Consequently, I strongly urge you to ensure that your new Council is tasked to address these critical areas, review of which was widely supported by industry, environmental and EPA witnesses at our recent hearings on EPA cabinet status.

Other mandates for my proposed Commission centered primarily around management improvements. With regard to these other important subjects, I believe that Vice President Gore's Performance Review teams could effectively address most or all of them, again obviating the need for a new Commission specifically established for that purpose.

These other topics include: changes which will improve the management and organization of EPA to eliminate overlap, improve coordination, and enhance the consistency of policies within EPA and between EPA and other agencies with environmental protection responsibilities; as well as other matters related to improving the overall management and efficiency of EPA, including further improvements in contracting and information resources management, internal controls, and accountability.

Finally, I strongly recommend that EPA immediately undertake efforts to improve its operations in two key respects: identifying additional cost-effective improvements in small business compliance and technical assistance programs (including strengthening organizational mechanisms to help achieve such improvements), and identifying ways of enhancing the relationship between EPA and State, local and tribal organizations with regulatory responsibilities.

All of these subjects are crucial to the efficient management of environmental protection efforts at the federal level, and to wise and effective allocation of public and private resources to environmental priorities.

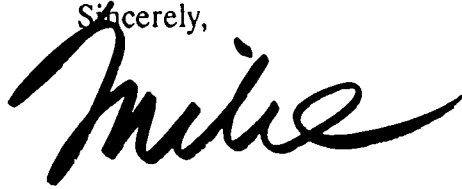
In view of the obvious nexus between these Congressional proposals and your own efforts, I hope you will take steps to task your new Council on Sustainable Development to give priority attention to the policy matters identified above, and to ensure that the Vice President's Performance Review teams address the above-noted EPA management issues as part of their important work on reinventing government. I also request that you task EPA Administrator Browner to have the agency begin an expeditious review of ways to improve the small business assistance programs and EPA's relations with other regulatory entities. In this way, much-needed examination of these subjects can be conducted without delay, without the need for a new Commission established by Congress, and without unnecessary expenditure of tax dollars.

Again, I applaud your effort to forge a meaningful partnership of industry, environmentalists and others to promote innovative and cost-efficient solutions to environmental protection problems confronting the U.S. and the global community. I hope you will direct your new Council and the Vice President's Performance Review teams

to address the specific subjects discussed here. The regulated community, the environment and all our citizens will benefit from expeditious and thoughtful resolution of these critical policy and management issues.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike", with a stylized, flowing script.

MIKE SYNAR
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment,
Energy and Natural Resources

*Keep -
Please fax
this to Lach; Buzzell; and see if its possible to
Ficker arrange a mtg.
7/15/93
-CE
7/1/93*



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

JOHN EDWARD PORTER
10TH DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

June 29, 1993

Kathleen McGinty
Director, White House Office
on Environmental Policy
Old Executive Office Bldg, Rm 360
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Katie:

It was a pleasure meeting with you today. I greatly appreciate your taking the time out of your busy schedule to discuss sustainable development and follow-up to the Earth Summit with me.

I will have Vicki send you additional information on the Rio Commission, and I hope that we will be able to arrange a meeting between GLOBE members and the Co-Chairs of the President's Council on Sustainable Development as soon as possible.

Katie, I look forward to working with you on these and other issues. Please do not hesitate to call on me whenever I can be of assistance.

Kathryn and I send personal regards.

Sincerely,

John Edward Porter
Member of Congress

*OKay -
I'd like to
arrange this.
I probably
before the
July 20
press
meeting.*

*o Cag. Parker
o Lach
o Buzzell*

Lyn

cells

refers to Buzzell

(2)

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