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Series/Staff Member: Kathleen (Katie) McGinty
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 2572
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Folder Title:
EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] - OMB [Office of Management and Budget] Clearance of
EPA's Responses to Senator Roth Regarding EPA S. 171

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	61	5	4	3

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Office of Management and Budget
Legislative Reference Division
Washington, DC 20503

TO:	AGENCY:
K. McGinty	Office on Environmental Policy

FROM: Holly Fitter PHONE: (202) 395-3233 FAX: (202) 395-5691
DATE: 3/12/93

SUBJECT: Clearance of EPA's Responses to Senator Roth concerning
EPA Cabinet Legislation, S. 171

We would like to complete clearance action on EPA's responses to Senator Roth's questions. EPA's response to question #5, however, continues to be the subject of agency dispute. Question 5 raises the issue of restructuring environment-related Federal functions. EPA's response has been marked up (attached) to include the agency comments.

Explanation of Markup

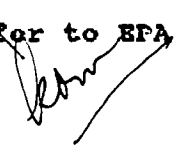
Item #1 - EPA has agreed to insert the work "support" (OMB change) in lieu of "envision".

Item #2 - Commerce has requested the inclusion of two inserts which emphasize the notion of broad-based interagency collaboration to improve environmental policy integration. EPA staff (Perry) has advised that Administrator Browner rejected both inserts.

Commerce has advised that insert 1 was provided by Jim Baker (Under Secretary-designate for Oceans and Atmosphere) and that he feels strongly about its inclusion. Commerce's concern arises from EPA's mention of monthly meetings between EPA and all major Federal environmental agencies with the exception of Commerce in answer to a question that references a recommendation to move NOAA to EPA. Commerce might agree to drop its insert if EPA drops the sentence that mentions the monthly meetings.

We need your recommendation on whether EPA should: (a) accept insert 1; (b) reject insert 1; or (c) reject the insert and delete EPA's original sentence regarding monthly meetings.

Commerce will defer to EPA on insert 2.



Item #3 - Both Commerce (Jim Baker) and Interior object to the last two sentences of EPA's answer, because these sentences could be read to invite restructuring at some future date. EPA staff (Perry) has advised that Administrator Browner rejected this deletion.

delete

We need your recommendation on whether these two sentences should stay (EPA position) or be deleted (Commerce/Interior position).

Finally, on a related matter, EPA staff (Perry) has advised that the dispute between EPA and State concerning the international responsibilities language of S. 171 has been resolved in EPA's favor. Specifically, EPA advises that per a McGinty/Browner agreement, the Administration supports the language currently in S. 171. State staff (Strachen), after consulting with Worth's staff, advise that EPA staff was in error, and that Worth and Browner still need to resolve the issue. Please advise of your understanding of this matter.

Worth & Browner need to resolve & I
have communicated this
directly to their staff. This is
not yet settled.

02/23/93 10:55

2202 260 5105

EPA CONG LIASON

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QUESTION 5:

COMMENTATORS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT PROGRAMS CURRENTLY MANAGED BY OTHER DEPARTMENTS SHOULD BE CONSOLIDATED WITHIN THE EPA.

FOR EXAMPLE THE CARNEGIE COMMISSION AND THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS RECOMMEND, AT A MINIMUM THAT PROGRAMS FROM THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT (E.G. NOAA),* AND THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT (E.G. USGS) SHOULD BECOME PART OF THE EPA.

WOULD YOU PLEASE COMMENT ON THESE RECOMMENDATIONS.

Answer:

I noted in my testimony one of the primary reasons for elevating EPA to cabinet status is to improve environmental policy integration and coordination among federal agencies. However, I would not ~~recommend~~ a restructuring of environmental programs from other Departments as part of the EPA Cabinet legislation. Major improvements in integration and coordination across Departments can be made through better communication, information sharing, and joint problem solving. For instance, I now meet personally on a monthly basis with the Secretary of the Department of Interior, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Energy ~~to foster this type of collaboration across the Executive Branch.~~ It is possible that restructuring the federal government, including the recommendations of external organizations like the Carnegie Commission, may ultimately be the most efficient way to make needed improvements. But it's not clear to me at this time that there is any clear rationale -- or consensus -- for the basis or form that such a major reorganization would take.

Item
#1

SUPPORT

Insert 1

Insert 2

O DELETE

Item
#3

Insert 1: "and I intend to meet with the heads of appropriate agencies of the Department of Commerce, including NOAA,"

Item
#2

Insert 2: "and through the use of existing interagency mechanisms, such as the Committee on Earth and Environmental Sciences (CEES)"

Called McGinty 3/3; 3/4; 3/5 AM



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

To: Tray

From: Holly Galt
+3233

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Please call when
you receive.

TELECOPIER FOR RESOURCES-DEFENSE-INTERNATIONAL BRANCH ONLY

TRANSMISSION NUMBER: 202-395-5691

VERIFICATION NUMBER: 202-395-6194

TO: Katie McGinty / Pam McElwee

Per our conversation
RAP

6624

Please give me a call regarding the attached
Q & A, which includes Commerce & Interior
Comments. Thanks

FROM:

Ron Peterson

NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 1

DATE:

3/2/93

3/3/93

TIME:

5:50 P.M.

9:50 AM

1:10 P.M.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE DIVISION
ROOM 7210
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

Please call Holly!

x 3233

There was some confusion as
to your answer. They want to
know how you feel about boxed
in AREA. DOI & DOC want it
deleted, EPA wants it to stay
in. Do you want it in or out?
delete ✓

02/23/93

10:55

202 280 5165

EPA CONG LIASON

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PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

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SUPPORT

INSERT 1

INSERT 2

DOI
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want
to delete

DELETE

EPA disa

In

DOC

In

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02/23/93 10:55

202 260 5165

EPA CONG LIASON

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SUPPORT

INSERT 1

DELETE

INSERT 2

DO I
+
DOC
want
to delete

EPA disagrees

Insert 1: "and I intend to meet with the heads of appropriate agencies of the Department of Commerce, including NOAA,"

Insert 2: "and through the use of existing interagency mechanisms, such as the Committee on Earth and Environmental Sciences (CEES)"