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Series/Staff Member: Kathleen (Katie) McGinty
Subseries: [Correspondence]

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Katie McGinty Letters "V"

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1994

Mr. John D. Vidinghoff
President
Englewood Company, Inc.
533 Abbott Drive
Broomall, PA 19008

Dear Mr. Vidinghoff:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding your thoughts about chlorine study and the Clean Water Act reauthorization. it was good to hear from you.

Rest assured that neither the EPA nor this Administration has made any decision in the reauthorization of the Clean Water Act that would restrict or ban the use of chlorine or chlorinated compounds. Because of the continuing rigorous public debate on this matter, EPA has proposed a thorough and careful review of the issues. I assure you that the proposed EPA study will be conducted in a fair, objective and balanced fashion, using the best available information and with the participation of all interested parties.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns with me.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. McGinty
Director, White House Office on
Environmental Policy

KAM/jdm



Englewood Company, Inc.

Chlorine

April 4, 1994

Ms. Kathleen McGinty
Deputy Assistant to the President and Director
360 Old Executive Office Building
17 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Ms. McGinty:

The recent announcement of the U.S. EPA reauthorization of the Clean Water Act included a provision to develop "a natural strategy for substituting, reducing or prohibiting the use of chlorine and chlorinated compounds" has put the future of many of my customers companies in serious trouble. This is another regulation that will create an obstacle for my company and my customers to compete in the global economy.

The manufacturer of polyvinyl chloride plastics is dependent on chlorine. These plastics known as PVC or vinyl are used in many items manufactured in the United States with a variety of applications such as blood bags, drainage pipes, resilient flooring and industrial tapes. As an industrial supplier, I know these products are important to each of our 2,000 customers and their employees not to mention the 100,000 people directly employed in the vinyl industry.

Industry in the United States can not afford more regulations and restrictions when the process used to determine these actions is unfair. The vinyl industry is already well regulated and has a fifty year record of safe performance. Any changes should be based on sound science and examination of all the evidence including the risk benefit analysis of chlorine containing products and their alternatives.

The EPA objective is not in the best interest of an important industrial product and its impact on hundreds of thousands of jobs in the United States. I strongly urge you to consider the serious ramifications of not following a scientific approach in considering any recommendation made in the use of chlorine.

Sincerely,

John D. Vidinghoff
President

JDV/kc

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 11, 1994

Mr. Benjamin de Vulpillières
Parc Croix Marie
4, Avenue des Jonchères
78121 Crespières
France

Dear Mr. Vulpillières:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter on the efforts of some other countries to resume commercial whaling.

Let me reassure you that the United States is deeply opposed to commercial whaling. The U.S. does not engage in commercial whaling, and we allow no imports of whale products. The United States also firmly supports creation of a whale sanctuary in the oceans surrounding Antarctica.

We have to recognize, however, that not every country agrees with us. Some countries believe that certain stocks of whales are numerous enough to withstand the resumption of commercial whaling without the danger of extinction. We think it is important to make sure that this question is addressed with sound science, and by giving the whales, not whalers, the benefit of the doubt when there are serious scientific uncertainties. That is why we are working within the International Whaling Commission to assure that the methodology known as the "revised management procedure" embodies these principles.

Some people fear that our work on this scientific methodology signals that we are changing our position and are preparing to support commercial whaling. Let me reassure you that this is not true. The United States has no intention to support commercial whaling.

I share your concern for whales and the environment. With your support, we will accomplish a great deal to protect the environment here in this country and around the world.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. McGinty
Director, White House Office on
Environmental Policy

KAM/avl

Mr. Benjamin de Vulpillières
Parc Croix Marie
4, Avenue des Jonchères
78121 Crespières
France

February 18, 1994

Ms. Kathleen McGinty
Deputy Assistant to the President
for Environmental Policy
17th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500
U.S.A.

Dear Ms. McGinty,

As a concerned citizen of the United States residing abroad, I am writing to declare my strong opposition to the Clinton Administration's position on the resumption of commercial whaling. The National Marine Fisheries Service, with specific instructions from the President's administration staff, has announced that the United States now supports the implementation of "science-based" commercial whaling.

Norway has been defying the international community's attempts to preserve marine wildlife populations by exploiting the well-worn loophole of killing 136 minke whales a year for "scientific purposes" since the ban on commercial whaling was first agreed to in 1982. For all that time, it has refused to listen to requests of IWC member countries to end this grossly unsustainable practice. The Marine Fisheries Service's recent move is obviously the U.S. government's attempt to keep from having to economically sanction Norway over its resumption of full-scale commercial whaling.

The U.S. decision further constitutes a complete reversal of the strong stance it took at last year's meeting of the International Whaling Commission. If Mr. Clinton's position on this crucial issue is not reversed, it is absolutely certain that the current moratorium against commercial whaling will be overturned at the upcoming Whaling Commission conference in Mexico.

I strongly urge you to consider changing your position on this vital problem before the repercussions of governmental policy-making decisions of this kind become too crippling for the marine biodiversity of our fragile, living ecosystem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Benjamin de Vulpillières', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Benjamin de Vulpillières

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 11, 1994

Mr. Philip A. Vitale
1968 Denslow Drive
South Bend, IN 46614

Dear Mr. Vitale:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter on the efforts of some other countries to resume commercial whaling.

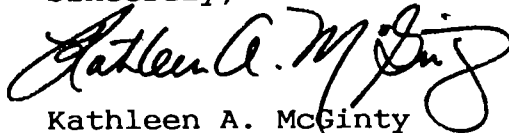
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Some people fear that our work on this scientific methodology signals that we are changing our position and are preparing to support commercial whaling. Let me reassure you that this is not true. The United States has no intention to support commercial whaling.

I share your concern for whales and the environment. With your support, we will accomplish a great deal to protect the environment here in this country and around the world.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. McGinty
Director, White House Office on
Environmental Policy

KAM/avl

Ms. Kathleen McGinty
Deputy Assistant to the President for Environmental Policy
17th St. & Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

March 1, 1994

Ms. McGinty,

For Christmas, my daughter, Sanya, adopted a whale in my name through the Whale Adoption Project — a unique and special gift not only because of my love for the donor, but also because of the thought and feeling that went into the gift. Sanya, having lived in my home her entire life, knows and appreciates the depth and sincerity of my feelings about the sea and especially my love of whales.

As part of the gift, the Whale Adoption Project sends me *Whalewatch*, a publication designed to educate people about whales and marine mammals and about the actions the IWC is taking to protect marine life and habitats. Along with the last edition of *Whalewatch*, I received a letter from Daniel J. Morast, the director of the Whale Adoption Project, that contains what I can only believe to be an error and a slur to the President and to the entire administration.

In the letter, Morast claims the Clinton administration has instructed the National Marine Fisheries Service to announce that the United States now supports the implementation of science-based commercial whaling to keep from having to economically sanction Norway over their recent resumption of commercial whaling.

Surely that is a mistake by Mr. Morast. After all, the environmental awareness of the Vice President and the concern shown by the President during the campaign could not have been mere rhetoric! Surely the administration would never slap the faces of those of us who oppose the killing of the largest and most awe inspiring of sentient mammals.

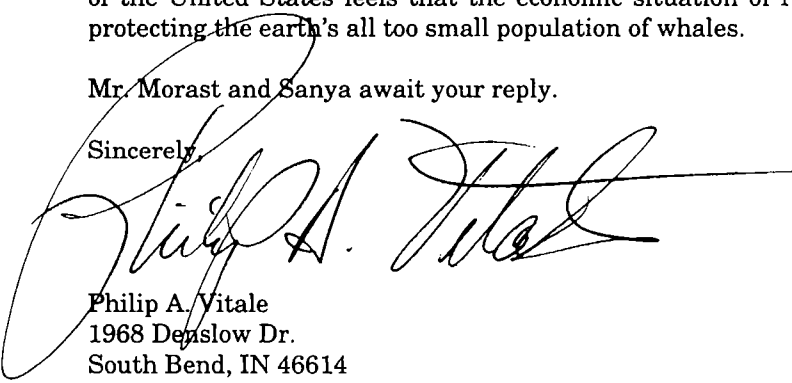
Another reason I feel certain the letter from Mr. Morast must have been in error — the administration has taken a strong stance *against* the harvesting of other mammals (like Bosnian Serbs and Left Bank Palestinians), and I could not believe the President could be so spineless as to condone slaughtering whales in the name of profit.

Please contact Mr. Morast at your earliest convenience and assure him that he misinterpreted the message, and that the President and the administration will not stand for the slaughter of whales, whether it is in the name of science or profit.

If, as of course is possible, I am in error and Mr. Morast is correct, I would request that you contact my daughter, Sanya, and explain to her that her gift to me was meaningless and worthless because the President of the United States feels that the economic situation of Norwegian fishermen is more important than protecting the earth's all too small population of whales.

Mr. Morast and Sanya await your reply.

Sincerely,



Philip A. Vitale
1968 Denslow Dr.
South Bend, IN 46614

cc
Daniel J. Morast
Sanya N. Vitale

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 11, 1994

Ms. Susan E. VanPatten
109A McLean Street
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Dear Ms. VanPatten:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter on the efforts of some other countries to resume commercial whaling.

Let me reassure you that the United States is deeply opposed to commercial whaling. The U.S. does not engage in commercial whaling, and we allow no imports of whale products. The United States also firmly supports creation of a whale sanctuary in the oceans surrounding Antarctica.

We have to recognize, however, that not every country agrees with us. Some countries believe that certain stocks of whales are numerous enough to withstand the resumption of commercial whaling without the danger of extinction. We think it is important to make sure that this question is addressed with sound science, and by giving the whales, not whalers, the benefit of the doubt when there are serious scientific uncertainties. That is why we are working within the International Whaling Commission to assure that the methodology known as the "revised management procedure" embodies these principles.

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I share your concern for whales and the environment. With your support, we will accomplish a great deal to protect the environment here in this country and around the world.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. McGinty
Director, White House Office on
Environmental Policy

KAM/avl

109A McLean St
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
February 23, 1994

Kathleen McGinty
Deputy Assistant to the President for Environmental Policy
17th Street & Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. McGinty:

I am writing to you regarding the administration's position on the resumption of commercial whaling. I find this change in the administration's position shocking & horrifying!! I urge you to reconsider the position, the whale population is still too fragile to withstand even science-based commercial whaling. The United States has to make a statement to the rest of the world that commercial whaling is unacceptable at this time. I hope that you will work to reverse the administration's policy & ban commercial whaling. Thank you!

Sincerely yours
Susan E. Van Patten
Susan E. Van Patten

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 11, 1994

Mr. and Ms. Michael and Lynn Visco
8 Hendry Lane
Bricktown, NJ 08723

Dear Mr. and Ms. Visco:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter on the efforts of some other countries to resume commercial whaling.

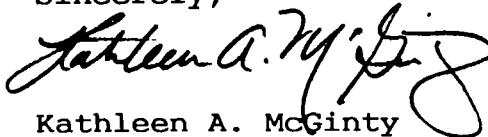
Let me reassure you that the United States is deeply opposed to commercial whaling. The U.S. does not engage in commercial whaling, and we allow no imports of whale products. The United States also firmly supports creation of a whale sanctuary in the oceans surrounding Antarctica.

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I share your concern for whales and the environment. With your support, we will accomplish a great deal to protect the environment here in this country and around the world.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. McGinty
Director, White House Office on
Environmental Policy

KAM/avl

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Visco
8 Hendry Lane
Bricktown, N.J.
08723

February 23, 1994

Kathleen McGinty
Deputy Assistant to the President
for Environmental Policy
17th St. & Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. McGinty,

I am writing this letter to inform you that we are greatly opposed to the United States resuming any form of commercial whaling.

As a registered voter of New Jersey, I casted my vote for President Clinton and his administration, believing that they would show a true concern towards our environment and surroundings. Now I am wondering if I made a fatal mistake.

Because of the great significance of the winter Olympics in Norway, I can turn my head on the ignorance of not demanding trade sanctions on Norway, even though they defy the moratorium that we treasure so dearly. But I will not sit back and watch the United States make themselves guilty in the bloody killing of innocent mammals like ourselves.

We believe that if we could only learn how to live peacefully among ourselves, like the whales do, the world would be a much happier place.

Please reconsider any idea to resume commercial whaling. I'm sure you'll find that many other people feel the same way as we do. Thank you for your time. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Visco

Lynn Visco

Mr. and Mrs. Visco

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 10, 1994

Mr. Christopher E. Vita
Central Area Sales Manager
Chemicals Group
PPG Industries, Inc.
3030 Warrenville Road
Suite 615
Lisle, Illinois 60532

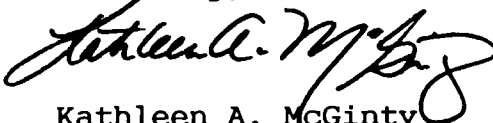
Dear Mr. Vita:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding your thoughts about chlorine study and the Clean Water Act reauthorization. It was good to hear from you.

Rest assured that neither EPA nor this Administration has made any decision in the reauthorization of the Clean Water Act that would restrict or ban the use of chlorine or chlorinated compounds. Because of the continuing rigorous public debate on this matter, EPA has proposed a thorough and careful review of the issues. I assure you that the proposed EPA study will be conducted in a fair, objective and balanced fashion, using the best available information and with the participation of all interested parties.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns with me.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. McGinty
Director, White House Office on
Environmental Policy

KAM/avl



PPG Industries, Inc.

3030 Warrenville Road Suite 615 Lisle, Illinois 60532 USA Telephone: (708) 505-1250 Fax: (708) 505-1254

Christopher E. Vita
Central Area Sales Manager
Chemicals Group

February 22, 1994

Office of Environmental Policy
Deputy Asst. to the President and Director
Kathleen McGinty
Old Executive Office Building
Room 360
17th Street & Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Ms. McGinty:

I am writing in regards to the recent request by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for Congressional authorization to conduct a study to develop a strategy to "prohibit, reduce or substitute (for) the use of chlorine." This recommendation was made as part of the request to reauthorize the Clean Water Act. I believe it should not be part of the Clean Water Act since the Act is designed to prevent pollution, not "prohibit" the use of chemicals.

In addition, I believe that this part of the recommendation is scientifically unfounded and conflicts directly with the EPA's own position on an earlier recommendation to the International Joint Commission (IJC) of the United States and Canada to "sunset the use of chlorine and chlorinated compounds." At that time, EPA said, "The United States does not support" the sunset recommendation. Rather, it said, the U. S. "has chosen to pursue a weight-of-evidence approach" to regulate specific chlorinated compounds that may exert deleterious or widespread environmental impacts.

In addition, Carol Browner recently suggested to the president of the Chemical Manufacturers Association that her original comments during the January news conference "had been misinterpreted" and the agency had "no plan for a ban on chlorine." The EPA's position is confusing and misleading. They have excluded the chlorine industry from the process through which this recommendation was brought forward. Meanwhile, activists including Greenpeace and the Public Interest Research Group were party to the process.

The EPA proposal represents an unscientific approach to regulating chemicals because it proposes prohibiting or reducing the use of chlorine and chlorinated compounds without regard to whether such a significant burden on society is warranted. There are more constructive ways to address potential risks from chlorine and chlorinated compounds which already are underway. The EPA recommendation would short-circuit such initiatives. Based on the sound science that weighs all of the evidence in an even-handed manner with the goal of reducing risk from exposure to specific chlorinated compounds, rather than relying on a presumption of guilt. This evaluation should include a risk-benefit analysis of potential alternatives, and the risks associated with not having chlorine available to society.

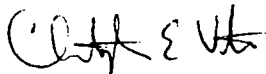
February 22, 1994

Chlorine plays a critical role in protecting public health. The Latin American cholera epidemic is a direct result of inadequate drinking water disinfection. Around the world, some 25,000 children die every day of causes related to dirty water. In the United States, we take safe drinking water for granted because of chlorination -- one of the most significant public health advances of the 20th century. The speed at which safe drinking water was restored to the people devastated by the 1992 summer floods was due to our ability to chlorinate their water. Safe drinking water is restored promptly after most major disasters because of chlorination.

Chlorinated compounds provide the vital needs of modern life including water disinfection, 85 percent of all medicines, 96 percent of crop-protection chemicals, hospital, food-handling, and swimming pool cleanliness. The chlorine industry also provides 1.3 million U.S. jobs, approximately \$30 billion a year in wages and salaries. In addition, almost 40 percent of all U.S. jobs and income depend in some way on chlorine and chlorinated compounds.

The chlorine industry is dedicated to improving its health, safety, and environmental performance. Through Responsible Care®, we are committed to develop and produce only those chemicals that can be manufactured, transported, used and disposed of safely, including chlorine and chlorinated compounds. Thank you for your consideration of this very important issue.

Sincerely,



Christopher E. Vita
Central Area Sales Manager

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 10, 1994

Mr. Frank Vendt
1150 Sherwood Forest Blvd.
Baton Rouge LA 70815

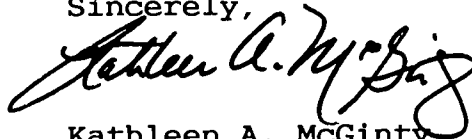
Dear Mr. Vendt:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding your thoughts about chlorine study and the Clean Water Act reauthorization. It was good to hear from you.

Rest assured that neither EPA nor this Administration has made any decision in the reauthorization of the Clean Water Act that would restrict or ban the use of chlorine or chlorinated compounds. Because of the continuing rigorous public debate on this matter, EPA has proposed a thorough and careful review of the issues. I assure you that the proposed EPA study will be conducted in a fair, objective and balanced fashion, using the best available information and with the participation of all interested parties.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns with me.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. McGinty
Director, White House Office on
Environmental Policy

KAM/avl

February 24, 1994

Office of Environmental Policy
Deputy Asst. to the President & Director
Kathleen McGinty
Old Executive Office Building
Room 360
17th St. & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20501

Dear Ms. McGinty, I am writing to let you know I am opposed to President Clinton's Clean Water Act reauthorization plan, proposed by Ms. Carol Browner of the Environmental Protection Agency. This proposal would eliminate the production and use of chlorine and chlorinate compounds. In addition, I am protesting the way Ms. Browner handled the decision making process by including Greenpeace and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) and left out those most affected by this proposed ban, the chemical industry. I have never solicited any organization such as Greenpeace or PIRG to speak or act on my or my families behalf for any reason. These radical groups have one objective in mind, that is, to impose their social wills on all Americans.

This is an outrage and will not be forgotten by the American voters, if this process continues. I am insisting that you use your influence to eliminate this absurd proposal made by those who don't understand the basis of chemistry. **Get the true facts prior to decision making.**

Respectfully Yours,

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

Frank J. Vendt