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October 28, 1998

Carol M. Browner
Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street SW, Mail Stop 1101
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Browner:

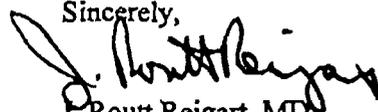
On July 27, 1998 I sent you a cover letter and several research recommendations from the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee. The recommendations the Committee made regarding improving USEPA's research agenda for children seemed to me rather modest and certainly reasonable. They were carefully considered and unanimously adopted by the Committee.

Five weeks later I received a response from some person "for Henry L. Longest II, Acting Assistant Administrator". It is not clear to me who actually wrote the letter. However, the response was dismissive, bureaucratic, and condescending. It rejected any discussion of the recommendations. I find this very disappointing as the Committee and I feel that a strong research agenda, specifically targeted at improving the health of children, is very important to USEPA and our children. It is our collective judgement that there is enormous potential for improvement in USEPA's research efforts for children.

Such a response further suggests that the Agency does not value and in fact has little interest in the recommendations of one of its own Advisory Committees. I feel rather strongly that if the Advisory Committee is to be effective, its advice should be given some consideration and not rejected out of hand. At the very least, some dialogue between the Agency and the Committee should occur before recommendations are dismissed. There seems little reason to continue with the Advisory Committee process if the Agency has no interest in its advice.

I would hope that this letter was written in error and that some dialogue can still occur regarding the advice offered by the Committee. I very much value your personal commitment to the health of our children and sincerely hope that you can influence your staff to take a more active and constructive approach to ensuring the safety of our children's environments.

Sincerely,


J. Routt Reigart, MD
Professor of Pediatrics

JRR/pc