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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Subcommittee on Health and the Environment  
of the  
Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20515



2-10221

October 20, 1978



The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We have supported your efforts to control inflation and look forward to assisting you in further developing the anti-inflation program of the government. We have also worked with you in establishing sound regulatory programs for environmental, occupational, and consumer health and safety. Because of our involvement with public health and environmental regulatory programs, we are concerned that the inflation message you will soon give be consistent with the requirements of these programs.

We have tried, unsuccessfully, to obtain written materials on the precise nature of the proposals which are under consideration. Since we have been unable to do so, our concerns can only be expressed in the most general of terms.

We would hope that the proposals for reducing the potential inflationary impact of health and safety regulations would be ones that we could support. The procedure by which these proposals are being developed, however, give us great cause for alarm. To date, there has been no systematic consultation with Senate and House members whose responsibilities include health, environment, occupational health and safety, and consumer protection. Nor has there been adequate consultation in the development and consideration of alternatives with the constituent interest groups -- labor unions, health groups, environmental groups, and consumer advocates. Finally, we were most disturbed to learn that it was not until earlier this week that those planning your speech notified and met with EPA, OSHA, CPSC, and FDA on the proposals.

Furthermore, we are concerned that the proposals under consideration -- such as the "regulatory calendar" or external review mechanisms which are apparently under consideration, may conflict with existing

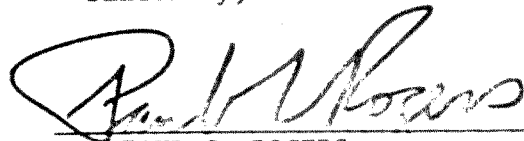
The President  
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statutory procedural and substantive requirements. If so, then we think that these proposals should be submitted to Congress as proposed legislative changes.

We recognize the need for prompt and effective action to curtail inflation. But establishing a new review procedure for health and safety regulations can at best have only a minimal and long-term impact.

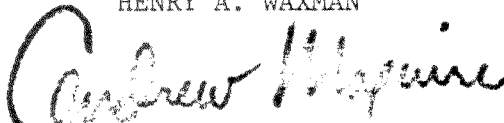
In light of the importance of preserving and protecting our Nation's health, in light of the minimal impact of potential restraints on health regulations from an inflation control standpoint, in light of the absence of adequate consultation inside and outside the Administration, in light of the uncertainties and limitations in the application of cost/benefit analysis to health regulations, and in light of the importance of labor, consumer, environment, and health constituencies in supporting your administration, we urge you to refrain from committing yourself to any particular plan of action in this area at this time. We would hope you would establish a process which will assure the involvement, and eventual support, of all the above groups in developing effective anti-inflation measures while preserving the basic mandate of protecting our Nation's health.

Sincerely,


  
PAUL G. ROGERS

  
BOB ECKHART

  
HENRY A. WAXMAN

  
ANDREW MAGUIRE

  
GEORGE E. BROWN, Jr.

  
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cc: Frank Moore