

THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

Washington, D.C./80230

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Dear Cecil,

Thank you for your letter of September 25. I understand your concern, but believe that it may result from a misinterpretation of the scope and purpose of the study being conducted by the Department of Commerce.

The Department has contracted a study which explores the methodological and practical difficulties involved in establishing a regulatory budget. Two industries, coal and trucking, were selected initially as pilot case studies against which to test the regulatory budget concept.

A draft report presenting estimates of the private sector expenditures generated by coal-related regulations has been submitted by our contractor. Presumably this is the portion of the regulatory budget study to which your concern is directed.

I agree with you that so potentially important a study should be accorded a careful review. It was for this reason that, previous to the receipt of your letter, we had scheduled an inter-agency briefing for the Regulatory Council. This briefing will be held at the Department of Commerce on Thursday, October 11, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5851. It is my understanding that several members of the Interior Department staff plan to attend this briefing.

We welcome the interest and expertise of you and your staff in our discussions on the progress we have made in our pilot application of the regulatory budget concept.

With best wishes,

C.L. Haslam

Acting Secretary of Commerce

Honorable Cecil D. Andrus Secretary of the Interior Washington, D.C. 20240

cc: Hon. Douglas Costle

Hon. Stuart Eizenstat

*Hon. James McIntyre