

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2002

The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Ariel Rios Building
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Whitman:

We are writing to express our concern that the Environmental Protection Agency has still not completed and released its reassessment of the potential health risks of human exposure to dioxin.

On August 2, 2001 many of the undersigned wrote to urge EPA to release the Dioxin Reassessment by the end of the summer. We pointed out that the American people have waited more than ten years for EPA to complete this important environmental health document. Our letter noted that EPA's Science Advisory Board, which completed its review of the report more than a year ago in May 2001, recommended that the Agency "proceed expeditiously to complete and release" the report, formally titled the "*Exposure and Human Health Reassessment of 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-Dioxin (TCDD) and Related Compounds*."

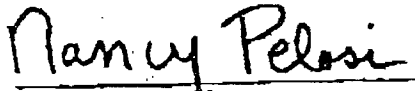
Your reply on September 7, 2001 stated, "We expect to complete an internal Agency review of the revised draft by the end of September," and you indicated that the final draft would be shared with the Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Dioxin. Yet now, in July 2002, the Dioxin Reassessment still has not been circulated to the IWG. Furthermore, at no point has a clear timeline for the interagency review been articulated.

EPA has been studying the sources and health effects of dioxin for nearly twenty years, and this report is the most comprehensive health risk assessment ever prepared by the agency. It is time to release this document and begin the process of developing strong policies that will protect the public's health.


We urge EPA to circulate the Dioxin Reassessment to the Interagency Working Group, finalize the report, and release it to the public as soon as possible. We request your detailed timeline for accomplishing these actions.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns and for your commitment to human health and the environment.


Sincerely,


NANCY PELOSI



MIKE FERGUSON


BARBARA LEE


GEORGE MILLER


HENRY A. WAXMAN


CAROLYN B. MALONEY

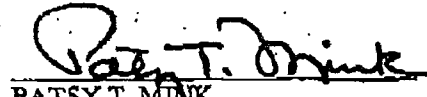

PATRICK J. KENNEDY

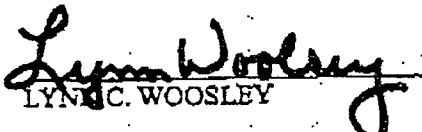

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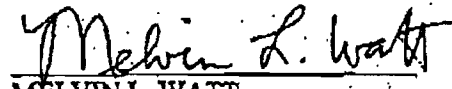

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cc: The Honorable Tommy G. Thompson, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services
The Honorable Am Veneman, Secretary, Department of Agriculture
Dr. Cliff Gabriel, Office of Science and Technology Policy