

RACHEL CARSON COUNCIL, INC.

An Association for the Integrity of the Environment

formerly Rachel Carson Trust for the Living Environment, Inc.

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September 20, 1982

The Honorable Robert Dole
2213 DSOB
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Dole:

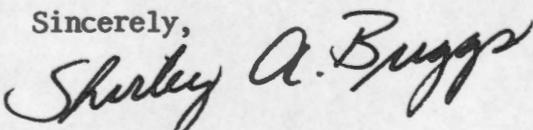
The Rachel Carson Council enthusiastically supports the Clean Air Amendments of 1982 reported by Robert Stafford's Committee on Environment and Public Works. The Clean Air Act is one of our most important environmental statutes. Over the last decade it has been effective in protecting our health and improving our environment.

We have a particular interest in toxic chemicals, and are especially supportive of the Committee's proposal to improve regulation of air pollutants that cause cancer and other serious diseases. In its entire history, EPA has regulated only 4 toxic pollutants. Scores of other airborne toxic pollutants are emitted in massive quantities from factories across America. Recent epidemiological and statistical studies indicate that as many as 20% of all lung cancer cases can be attributed to air pollution. Numerous studies have shown high cancer rates to be associated with the industrialized regions of the country.

The committee has acted to strengthen the current Act so as to break the bureaucratic logjam that has stopped effective regulation by EPA during the last two administrations. The committee amendments require EPA to investigate 40 priority pollutants and to reach a decision within five years on their risks to public health. To encourage EPA to meet this statutory timetable, the bill stipulates that if EPA fails to decide whether a chemical should be regulated, that chemical is automatically listed as a hazardous pollutant, and steps are taken to protect the public from its release. This automatic listing mechanism is the only way to stimulate EPA's decision-making process.

All in all, the Committee bill is one that should be supported both by conservationists and industry. Besides forcing EPA to take action on toxic air pollutants, it strengthens the ability of the current Clean Air Act to control acid rain, maintains strict controls on mobile sources and on pollution in the national parks, while it eliminates unnecessary paperwork by streamlining procedural requirements. We urge you to vote for the Stafford committee's amendments.

Sincerely,



Shirley A. Briggs
Executive Director