



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 21 2003

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Melanie A. Marty, Ph.D.  
Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee  
Office of Environmental Health Hazards Assessment  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
1515 Clay Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Dr. Marty:

Thank you for writing on behalf of the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee to communicate the Committee's recommendations for linking children's health with the pursuit of smart growth.

I am pleased that you identified smart growth as a positive approach to addressing health issues. Environmental health and smart growth are closely linked priorities for EPA. We are currently working with the Council of Education Facility Planners to develop school-siting strategies that allow children to walk to school and lead to better environmental outcomes. In addition, EPA supports work by the National Governors Association, the Local Government Commission, and the International City/County Management Association to ensure that smart-growth efforts at the state and local levels consider children's environmental health.

As you recommended, we will make the connection between health and smart growth explicit by including public health in our definition of smart growth. We will provide you with detailed responses to the other recommendations. I have asked staff from the Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation and the Office of Children's Health Protection to present me with options for specific actions to address them. We hope to share these ideas with you during your June meeting.

Again, thank you for writing. The relationship between public health and the built environment is an emerging issue that clearly deserves careful attention, and I look forward to continuing our productive dialogue on this and other health and environmental issues.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine Todd Whitman".

Christine Todd Whitman