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August 16, 2002

Honorable Christine Todd Whitman
Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20406

Dear Administrator Whitman,

The Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC) continues to applaud your leadership in the area of environmental health indicators, particularly in the area of children's environmental health indicators. With the publication of the *America's Children and the Environment: A First View of Available Measures*, EPA provided the public and others with information and important measures needed to track our national progress in protecting children and evaluate areas for improvements. For the first time, this report identified and compiled indicators on environmental contaminants and health effects in children resulting from environmental exposures. We understand from the Office of Children's Health Protection (OCHP) that it is the Office's most requested publication, underscoring its usefulness.

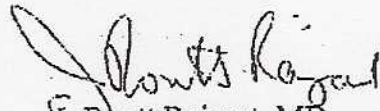
At our June meeting, we found out that EPA has completed an updated report that has undergone extensive peer review, including review by other Federal agencies. Your staff should be commended for undertaking such an extensive review process to ensure a scientifically sound report.

We were troubled to hear that the Office of Management and Budget decided to conduct its own review and an additional interagency review before allowing the report to be published. This seems to be an undue delay of the publication of this much-needed report. As this is not a policy report, but merely a summary of information available to the public from other sources, we do not understand why such a review was considered necessary.

We are concerned that a delay in publishing this report will detract from your efforts to provide important, peer-reviewed scientific information to the public regarding children's health.

We hope that EPA will be able to move expeditiously to make the report available to the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Routh Reigart".

J. Routh Reigart, MD
Chair, Children's Health Protection
Advisory Committee

JRR/pc

Copy to: Joanne Rodman, OCHP