

Honorable Christine Todd Whitman

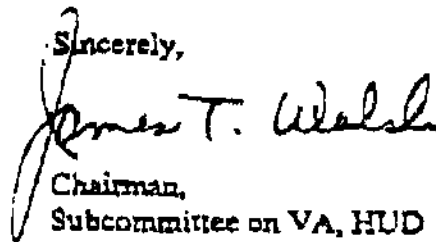
Page two

and use of Toxicity Equivalent Factors; and the appropriateness of including "dioxin-like" chemicals in the risk assessment without individual empirical review of their effects. The NAS should, among other issues, review the comments on the draft Reassessment registered by the Science Advisory Board review panel.

I know that review by the NAS might delay the final publication of the Reassessment. However, I believe the NAS review is likely to expedite the subsequent interagency review that would be occurring in any event, with the added benefit of bringing to bear the expertise of respected non-governmental scientists in this area. The result will be to increase the scientific credibility of -- and public confidence in -- the final Reassessment and the substantial regulatory implications flowing from that document.

I want to express my appreciation for the way in which the Agency has cooperated with this Subcommittee, and I look forward to your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Chairman,
Subcommittee on VA, HUD
And Independent Agencies Appropriations