

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I appreciate this opportunity to present the views of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare on S. 886. We welcome the opportunity to discuss reorganization and reassignment of governmental activities with you because we know how important you believe it is to keep governmental functions adjusted to changing conditions. Under your chairmanship this subcommittee is performing a vital function.

One of the provisions of S. 886 would transfer the air pollution and solid waste programs from this Department to the Department of the Interior, which would be redesignated the Department of Natural Resources. For reasons, which I will discuss, we do not recommend enactment of this provision.

In many respects, air pollution and solid waste disposal are typical of the entire range of environmental contamination problems of our technologically advanced and predominantly urban society. Air pollution and solid waste disposal are primarily health problems, but like most other problems of environmental contamination, they have far-reaching economic, social, and technological ramifications. They are deeply rooted in the way we build our cities, the ways in which we provide transportation for ourselves and our goods, the ways in which we provide the energy needed to heat and light all the places where we

in this effort."

Federal legislation in both the air pollution and solid waste disposal fields reflects the paramount importance of public health and welfare considerations as the motivation for national efforts to deal with these problems. In the preamble to the Clean Air Act, the Congress declared "that the growth in the amount and complexity of air pollution brought about by urbanization, industrial development, and the increasing use of motor vehicles, has resulted in mounting dangers to the public health and welfare, including injury to agricultural crops and livestock, damage to and the deterioration of property, and hazards to ground and air transportation." A similar declaration of findings appears in the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

This concern for public health and welfare is reflected in precisely the same words in the proposed Air Quality Act of 1967, which has been passed by the Senate is now under consideration in the House. In addition, by making the development and publication of air quality criteria an integral part of the procedures leading up to the adoption of State air quality standards, the proposed new legislation would underscore, as never before, the importance of controlling air pollution in accordance with scientific knowledge of its adverse effects on health and property.

Economic and technological considerations are by no means overlooked in the proposed legislation. Under this legislation, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare would be responsible for the development and publication of detailed data on the status and cost of those techniques which can be employed to achieve air quality levels consistent with the Department's air quality criteria. The Department also