

EASTMAN KODAK Co.,
Rochester N.Y., November 6, 1967.

HON. JOHN V. TUNNEY,
*House of Representatives,
Congress of the United States,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TUNNEY: Although it has been my privilege to give testimony on a number of occasions on proposed legislation, I cannot remember a single instance when, even though I favored the proposed bill, I did not have at least minor modifications to suggest. Consequently it is a real pleasure to tell you that I am enthusiastic about H.R. 13211, and would strongly urge its enactment, as one of the most important and constructive actions which the Congress and the President can take.

The proposed action in establishing a Council of Ecological Advisers parallels the recommendation of the Linton report, "A Strategy For a Living Environment," and I believe is sufficiently urgent to move ahead of other legislation which is likely to come from that report. The placement of such a Council at the level proposed is essential to give it the importance and visibility needed for the vital job assigned to it. I served on the National Advisory Committee for Environmental Health to the Public Health Service (and am a member of its sequel, the National Advisory Council on Disease Prevention and Environmental Control) at the time responsibilities for water pollution were transferred to the Department of the Interior, and while understanding the influences involved, was dismayed at the further fragmenting of responsibilities in the attack on our total environmental health problem. Similarly, I have followed closely the "mix" with respect to ionizing radiation between the Atomic Energy Commission and the Division of Radiological Health (now the National Center for Radiological Health) in the separation of "occupational" from "public" responsibilities.

It was my privilege to serve as a member of an ad hoc Office of Science and Technology Committee to stimulate, in the 1950's, a much more realistic attack—and organization—by the Public Health Service in environmental health activities. From those meetings, the Gross Report was engendered—with such results as an escalating effort in air pollution—with a budget of four million in 1960 to sixty-four million in 1967.

That the effort should not and cannot be relegated solely to the federal government seems most important to me. In the 1950's when I was a member (and later Chairman) of the Council on Occupational Health of the American Medical Association, I repeatedly urged the Board of Trustees to mount a major activity in environmental health—and when a Council on Environmental and Public Health was established in 1963, I was asked to chair it, and have continued in that capacity. We have conducted four annual and major Congresses on Environmental Health, and plan for our Fifth Congress