

SETAUKET, N.Y., December 5, 1967.

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

DEAR MR. TUNNEY: Thank you for your letter of November 2nd, in which you ask me to comment on HR 13211. This I am pleased to do, although my comments of course reflect my personal opinion and not necessarily those of either the Brookhaven National Laboratory nor the Atomic Energy Commission.

The objective of the bill is quite worthwhile, that of providing technical advice on Ecology to the President. It is of considerable importance then that the members of the council be professionally qualified to provide such competent technical advice, and certainly they should not be appointed simply on the basis that they might referee various uses of environment among competing interests. The question is large indeed, and one wonders if a part time board can do the job adequately in the face of current needs. It might be worthwhile to have a small permanent staff with perhaps one professional ecologist, a member of the board, in charge. The remainder of the board might be drawn from among professionally qualified scientists, representative of ecologists in related disciplines. The objective of the bill is commendable and timely, and I hope that a somewhat more specific version can be enacted.

Sincerely yours,

VICTOR P. BOND, M.D.,
Associate Director, Brookhaven National Laboratory.

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