

OCT 19 1971

Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.

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October 15, 1971

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Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University School of Medicine
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

John Adams has asked me to reply to your letter of October 7, 1971 since I wished to bring to your attention an item on X-rays which appeared in the Federal Register for October 8, 1971.

Turning first to the concerns you express on your position as a member of the Board of Trustees, I think that it is generally recognized that membership on a Board does not imply complete support for each organizational action by every trustee. As you know the minutes reflect which Trustees attended each meeting and the taking of any particular suit or project indicates only that a majority of those voting when the action was considered support the measure. If you wish to abstain or dissent on any particular proposal, the minutes can reflect that. For instance, Mr. Zimmerman has abstained from taking part in the consideration of at least two suits which raised possible conflicts of interest with clients represented by his law firm and the minutes so state.

I hope you do not feel that the Council has exploited its relationship with you by prominently associating your name with any action of which you disapprove. If there are particular suits or projects on which you would like to register dissent, please let us know. I hope that you could let us have your opinion before Board action on a proposal is taken. We value the Trustees' opinions highly and those of the scientific members are particularly crucial to lawyers who sail uncharted seas in moving into environmental questions involving issues beyond their technical expertise.

The HEW announcement in the Federal Register involves just such a question of expertise. As you can see, it touches a part of the X-ray problem that Nancy Smith was considering this summer and raises scientific issues which a simple lawyer cannot analyze intelligently. It is important that proposals of this sort be analyzed and commented on by competent members of the public. I very much hope that you or your students could submit such comments to HEW on this proposal. If you think that a covering letter or

any legal analysis of such comments would be helpful, the staff would be happy to provide it.

I regret that I have had to write this letter on paper, but I have asked my secretary to type across the page so that at least we save resources at the margin.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angus Macbeth". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Angus Macbeth

AM/js
Enclosures