

February 19, 1970

Representative Leonard Farbstein
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Farbstein,

Please let me record my unreserved support for the position you have taken on the floor of the house with respect to the abolition of lead additives in gasoline.

I am particularly exercised by the negligent attitude that the proponents of these materials have been expressing recently with respect to the potential health hazard of environmental lead. It may be true that it has been very difficult to establish conclusively acute population injury from airborne lead but this is only because we are exposed to such a complex variety of environmental assaults in every day living. That lack of precise information certainly cannot be translated into complacent assurances that lead can do no harm - we know much better!

Appended to my enclosed article of January 17th I have a brief bibliography that points to some recent information on lead toxicity. In addition, even ~~state~~ that time there has been new work from Finland which is particularly pertinent and of which I enclose a copy.

Please continue your good work.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr
enclosures