



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 28 2007

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. John L. Howard, Jr.
Chair, National Advisory Council
for Environmental Policy and Technology
Vinson & Elkins LLP
2801 Via Fortuna, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78746-7568

Dear Mr. Howard:

Thank you for sending me the National Advisory Council on Environmental Policy and Technology's initial thoughts on environmental stewardship. I have shared your letter with key members of my staff as well as the members of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Innovation Action Council.

I am pleased that NACEPT is off to a productive start on its review of environmental stewardship and cooperative conservation. These two subjects are of strategic importance to the future of environmental protection. I am pleased that you support the general vision of environmental stewardship in the *Everyday Choices* report, and I look forward to hearing your ideas on how we should implement it, how we should assess our efforts, and how we should balance our several responsibilities, including our "robust regulatory role." I believe we no longer face an issue of regulatory versus stewardship activities; rather, our challenge is how to use the entire set of tools to get the best environmental results.

We look forward to your detailed findings and recommendations on environmental stewardship and cooperative conservation this summer. Meanwhile, we stand ready to assist you by gathering whatever information you and the other NACEPT members may request.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Johnson

John -
Thank you so much!
I do look forward
to our continuing
work to
advance
environmental
protection!
Amen