



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

MAY 2 2003

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Melanie A. Marty, Ph.D.  
Chair, Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee  
CA/EPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1600  
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Dr. Marty:

Thank you for writing to share with me your concerns about the Office of Children's Health Protection's new Aging Initiative and the need to select a permanent director for OCHP.

As you know, children are at a much greater risk from exposure to environmental population than the general population. The aging, too, may face a heightened risk from exposure, because our bodies may become more susceptible to environmental hazards as we age. The immune system diminishes with increasing age in most people. That is why we have undertaken this important new initiative. I asked OCHP to lead this effort based on their success in advancing the Agency's goals of protecting children's health. That does not mean, however, that children's health issues will be subordinated or that funds will be diverted from the office's core mission. I agree that additional resources are needed for the Aging Initiative, and I assure you that EPA does not intend to reduce funding for children's health initiatives to meet that need.

Selecting a permanent director for OCHP is a high priority for EPA. We have decided that an open competition is the best way to identify top candidates, the application period closes on May 16, 2003, and we hope to proceed expeditiously to announce our selection.

Thank you for your input on these and many other vital issues facing our children and the aging. I look forward to continuing to work with you and the members of the Committee to address them. Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine Todd Whitman".

Christine Todd Whitman