



Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Health
Washington DC 20201

FEB -2 1995

Dear Colleague:

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898 entitled "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations." Under the requirements of the Executive Order, each department within the Federal Government is developing a strategic plan to address environmental justice issues, including public participation in this process.

The issue of environmental justice and the implementation of the Executive Order is a priority of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In no other component of the Federal Government does a greater capacity exist for addressing the health needs and concerns of low-income and minority communities disproportionately affected by hazardous environmental exposures.

To begin the public comment period for the draft HHS Environmental Justice strategic plan, a focus group was convened in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 19. HHS also participated in a multi-agency public hearing on January 20, which featured an evening session that was televised in several locations around the United States.

Because of the importance of the development of the HHS Environmental Justice strategic plan for all those interested in the costs, risks, and health burdens of environmental decisions and exposures for low-income and minority communities and workers, we are soliciting your review and comments on the enclosed draft HHS Environmental Justice strategic plan.

We would like to encourage you to submit written comments by March 1, 1995, to:

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Department of Health and Human Services
Environmental Justice Strategic Plan
c/o Office of Minority Health Resource Center
P.O. Box 37337
Washington, D.C. 20013-7337
FAX: (301) 589-0884

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