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COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
FACSIMILE (202) 225-3974
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
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April 1, 2004

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The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to bring to your attention a new report that I released today entitled, "A Special Interest Case Study: The Chemical Industry, the Bush Administration, and European Efforts to Regulate Chemicals." This report, which is based on government documents, reveals that your Administration worked closely with the chemical industry to build opposition to a landmark effort in Europe known as Registration, Evaluation, and Authorization of Chemicals (REACH) to regulate the chemical industry.

I am requesting that the details of the U.S. government's activities regarding REACH be made public immediately. I have written directly to the Secretaries of State and Commerce, as well the U.S. Trade Representative and the administrator of the U.S. EPA, to request information on their role in this campaign to oppose the European chemical initiative. I request that you ask your cabinet to cooperate fully in this investigation.

Additionally, I request a clear statement from you that the United States will not work to undermine environmental protections in other nations. Every sovereign nation should be permitted to enact legitimate public health and environmental protections as they see fit.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member