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To: Lorraine D. Hunt OIRA ECON GUIDE/OMB/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Value of human life

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Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Lorraine Hunt
Office of Management and Budget, NEOB
Room 10202, 725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Hunt:

The "OMB Draft Guidelines for the Conduct of Regulatory Analysis and the Format of Accounting Statements" determines that saving the life of an elderly person is worth less than saving the life of a younger person.. As an American citizen who is the grandchild of a senior citizen, I find that devaluing an elderly person's life is unethical and unmoral.

The analysis proposes to devalue the life of a human over 70 to 2/3 that of the rest of the population and lowers the established EPA price tag of a human life from \$6.1 million to \$3.7 million. This is a mere pretext to cut the value of health and safety standards in order to protect the industries that stand to gain from this White House initiative.

The OMB's conclusion that the lives of senior citizens are less valuable raises serious ethical and scientific questions. If analysis is fully applied, regulations for air pollution, toxic waste cleanup, food labeling and other quality of life issues could be weakened or not even implemented at all--and our senior citizens will feel the brunt of it since their health is the most vulnerable to dirty air and unhealthy food.

This proposed devaluation is particularly alarming coming from an administration with such close ties to the utilities and fuel industries. As a resident of Atlanta, I live in the middle of a terribly polluted city that gets worse daily. The outrageous influence that Southern Company wields to keep polluting our air can only get worse with an administration telling them human life, particularly the elderly, is worth less. Atlanta already suffers an epidemic of asthma during our lengthy smog season, one that affects children and adults as much as the elderly. To keep the rest of the country from suffering the fate of our once beautiful city, ideas like this must not be encouraged.

Sincerely,

Kari Anne Kilgore