

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20502

March 12, 2004

Professor Matthew Meselson
Harvard University
Fairchild 363
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Professor Meselson:

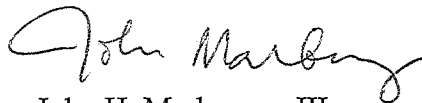
Enclosed is a copy of a letter I sent today to Kurt Gottfried, Chairman of the Union of Concerned Scientists, in response to a statement he forwarded to me that was endorsed by you and other distinguished scientists.

Dr. Gottfried emphasized in his letter that you do not represent UCS, and are not responsible for the document. I nevertheless am very concerned that you should find it necessary to sign such a statement, and am determined to establish a means to communicate with you to begin to bridge what appears to me to be a serious gap in information regarding the policies of this Administration and the details of allegations made in the document.

I would like to begin by understanding the basis and research that supports the conclusions in the statement and in return make information available about the issues. As a next step, I would welcome the opportunity to meet in person to exchange information and views on the relation between government and the science community in general.

If you have any further thoughts on these issues, I would be grateful to receive them. You can write me directly at jmarburg@ostp.eop.gov.

Sincerely,



John H. Marburger, III
Director

Enclosure

MAR 22 2004

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20502

March 12, 2004

Dr. Kurt Gottfried
Chairman, Union of Concerned Scientists
1707 H Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006-3962

Dear Dr. Gottfried:

Thank you for your letter of February 18 transmitting the statement and its signatories, and the accompanying document prepared by the Union of Concerned Scientists. The allegations that have been made, the manner in which they are presented and the conclusions about them are of concern to me.

I strongly disagree with the conclusions you have reached. As you no doubt have inferred from my statements to the media, I believe the discussion of the allegations in the document is incomplete, and does not justify the sweeping conclusions of either the statement or the backup document. I also believe the document has methodological flaws that undermine its own conclusions, not the least of which is the failure to reflect responses or explanations from responsible officials.

President Bush believes policies should be made with the best and most complete information possible, and expects his appointees to conduct their business in a way that fulfills that belief. From my personal experience and direct knowledge, I can state unequivocally that this Administration applies the highest scientific standards in decision-making.

I am committed to communicating with the scientific community regarding the issues of concern, and am confident that a discussion of the facts about these issues will resolve any misunderstandings.

Sincerely,



John H. Marburger, III
Director

MAR 22 2004