

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 16, 1979

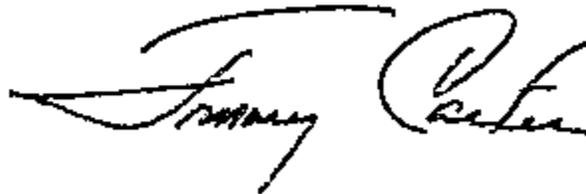
To Chairman Harold Williams

Last March I issued Executive Order 12044, the goal of which was to improve government regulations. One of the methods the Order used to move toward that goal was the creation of expanded opportunities for public participation in the regulatory process. I asked independent regulatory commissions at that time to comply with the Order voluntarily, and I have been gratified by the progress that has been made.

It is clear, however, that consumers, workers, small businesses, and others all too frequently find the costs of effective participation to be prohibitive. As a result, their views and interests often go unrepresented, or under-represented, in agency proceedings that affect them.

Today I am issuing a memorandum to Executive departments and agencies asking them to address this problem. As I did last March, I am again asking for voluntary compliance by independent regulatory commissions. Many important decisions are made by the independent agencies -- decisions that affect the health, safety, and economic well-being of us all. It is vital that these decisions be made on the basis of full and balanced information. I strongly encourage you to assess your agency's authority and need to establish a public participation funding program.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Harold M. Williams  
Chairman  
Securities and Exchange Commission  
500 North Capitol Street  
Washington, D.C. 20549

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