



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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March 20, 1996

Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge
7106 Bells Mill Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20817

Dear Dr. Etheredge:

Thank you for your letter of January 13 and for sharing your concerns about efforts to establish an empirical foundation for the nation's social and economic policy choices. I appreciate your taking the time to keep us informed of your progress.

I have shared your letter with colleagues here in the Office of the President. It is clear from your correspondence with the President's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology (PCAST) that the potential for ideological bias in the process of policy development is widely acknowledged, but that PCAST has decided not to devote its limited resources to support new research into the issue at this time. While I understand your concerns, PCAST is free to establish its own agenda and the University of California is not in a position to involve itself.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Atkinson
President

cc: Provost King
Associate Vice Provost Poppe
Associate Vice Chancellor Hittelman
Dean Sears
Director Polsby
Coordinator McClain