

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE OF ADVISORS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

October 26, 1995

Dear Dr. Etheredge:

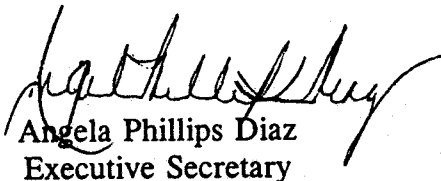
Mr. Norman Augustine forwarded your letter to this office for a response. Since we provide staff support for the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), we stay in close communication with the members regarding their priorities and initiatives.

The points you raise in your letter to Mr. Augustine are certainly important for the policy sciences. The concern of the academic community regarding this potential for ideological bias in our policies and in our institutions is illustrated by the considerable body of literature that exists on this issue. The relative importance of these issues to the broader public is somewhat more difficult to gauge. During our recent PCAST meeting, however, the issue of using belief-based rather than empirically-based policies to drive budget choices was often raised.

Unfortunately, while many members might share some of your concerns, the PCAST as a whole has established its agenda for the coming year and is unable to take on new initiatives. PCAST did recently issue a set of Science and Technology Principles that might be of interest to you. I have enclosed a copy for your information.

We appreciate your interest in and recognition of PCAST as an important body for addressing national concerns about science and technology issues. We regret that PCAST cannot undertake the kind of report you have proposed but trust that you will pursue your concerns with others.

Sincerely,



Angela Phillips Diaz  
Executive Secretary

cc: PCAST Members  
Joyce Justus

Enclosure

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