

Westinghouse Electric Corporation

Mr. Secretary
The Hon.

Westinghouse Electric
Corporation
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

October 1, 1971

The Honorable Maurice H. Stans
The Secretary of Commerce
Department of Commerce
14th and Constitution Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

At the October 1, 1971 meeting of the Electric and Nuclear Sub-Council of the National Industrial Pollution Control Council, the members discussed the current public concern over applications of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) which allow these substances to be released to the environment.

At its first meeting the Sub-Council identified PCB as potentially hazardous. A Sub-Council report, "The Use and Disposal of Electrical Insulating Liquids," published in June pointed out that some members of the PCB family are not biodegradable, accumulate in the environment, are toxic, and are believed to be ecologically hazardous. The report recommended that PCB use be limited to closed systems, such as transformers, in which it is retained and not released to the environment in normal usage. It also recommended handling methods which avoid releasing discarded PCB or PCB soaked materials to the environment. I enclose a copy of the report.

Two toxic substances control bills, S. 1478, with amendment 338 and H.R. 10085, propose restrictions that could prevent the use of PCB even in closed systems. The Sub-Council members agree that PCB use should properly be subjected to regulatory controls to protect the public. However, they strongly believe that it should not be banned from use in closed systems following recommended procedures. Suitable substitute products are not available for many essential electrical uses. We urge you and your Department to make this clear to the Congress and other bodies concerned with this problem.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

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