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THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NY 10021

October 2, 1981

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

RECEIVED

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VAN E. LANGLEY

Mr. Van E. Langley
Chairman
Staff Services Subcommittee
The Business Roundtable
1828 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Langley:

I am responding to your letter of August 5th addressed to me as trustee of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

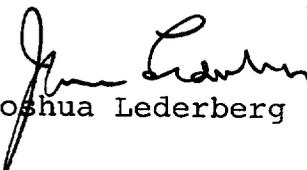
NRDC rhetoric as articulated by staff does, in my personal opinion, sometimes interfere with the pursuit of worthy and larger aims. The Board as well as staff does embrace a range of perspectives about the best ways to achieve these; but I continue to serve on the Board in the belief that it is surely the most responsible of effective activist groups in the field, and that NRDC is continuing to evolve as an indispensable part of the dialectic needed to resolve the inevitable conflicts of interest in environmental management.

I do, however, heed your concern about confrontational rhetoric, and trust that the Roundtable will play a corresponding role.

In that connection, I hope you will agree that the looming exsanguination of EPA's professional analytical capability is not a constructive step, and in the long run industry will rue it too.

May we have your reasoned voice on this issue?

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg