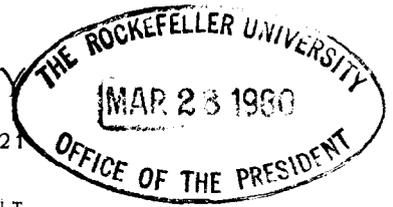




THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY
1230 YORK AVENUE · NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



27 March 1980

Dr. James C. Ross
Vice President for Governmental
Relations
CICU ✓
37 Elk Street
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Dr. Ross:

I understand that Ms. Van Nest left a message in which she relayed your request for short statements of suggested topics that the Governor might raise with President Carter.

We have considered the request and offer three issues that we believe are of sufficient national and State-wide interest to warrant being included on the Governor's agenda.

1. Radioactive Waste Disposal. The disposal of low-level radioactive waste is a daily requirement in routine hospital care and in an enormous range of biomedical research. This category of disposal poses almost negligible hazards to the public and is quite separate from the more serious problems of disposing nuclear reactor waste and related materials. To the best of our knowledge, these issues require a national (and largely federal) solution. With only two states now accepting low-level radioactive waste--South Carolina and Washington--the problem is once again becoming urgent. The cognizant federal agencies are the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency. If you need further detailed material on this topic, we and others in the State can provide it promptly. For your background information, note the attached copy of an excellent recent editorial in Science.

2. Funding for Renovation and Modernization of Facilities. For at least ten years, federal support to educational and research institutions has been under such pressure that specific funding for construction/renovation/modernization has been extremely small. Additional funding now is needed: to meet new safety and workplace standards; to conserve energy; to modernize obsolescent research facilities; to improve the efficiency of libraries; and to fulfill the requirements for access to handicapped individuals, among other purposes. Even in a tight budget year, we believe that the priority for such funding should be raised slightly, if necessary at the cost of reducing other support for education and research.

Dr. James C. Ross

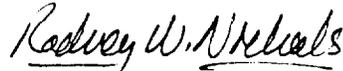
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3. Tax Legislation Affecting Charitable Gifts. We endorse the general aims of the Moynihan/Packwood legislation (S.219), which is now in the Senate Finance Committee. The House version is the Fisher/Conable bill (HR 1785). Such legislation would permit "above the line" charitable contribution deductions on income tax returns whether or not those who submit the return itemize their deductions. Another feature of the legislation is that charitable contributions could be deducted over and above the standard deduction taken on the short form income tax return. It is estimated that about 20% more people would be able to take tax credit for charitable contributions if this legislation were adopted.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this review.

Sincerely,



Rodney W. Nichols
Executive Vice President

Enclosure

bcc: ✓ Joshua Lederberg
Frederick Lehmann
David Lyons
Tonya Siddiqi
Sydney Woodd-Cahusac
Richard Young