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July 15, 1977

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Dr. Walter Weyzen, Manager
 Human Health Studies Program
 Division of Biomedical and
 Environmental Research
 ERDA
 Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Dr. Weyzen:

This is to confirm our phone conversation of July 14 regarding the language the Senate Energy Committee substituted in Section 105(a)(1) of the House-passed version of HR 6550, the omnibus authorization bill for the territories.

The Senate committee amended the above section dealing with compensation for the victims of the U.S. thermonuclear bomb tests at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands. Following is the original House language:

"(1) The Secretary shall pay \$25,000 to each such individual from whom the thyroid gland or a neurofibroma in the neck was surgically removed, or who has developed thyroid atrophy resulting in myxedema, or who develops a radiation-related malignancy, such as leukemia," .

The underlined phrase in the above, "or who has developed thyroid atrophy resulting in myxedema," was replaced in the Senate committee by the following language:

"or who has developed hypothyroidism," .

Chairman Phillip Burton was concerned about the change in language and asked me to verify with someone at ERDA that the Senate definition was not narrower than the House language, but that, in fact, it included the House definition. You, as the person in charge of the ERDA medical program for the Marshall Islands, assured me that the Senate version was indeed broader than the House language and would cover cases of thyroid atrophy as well as include hypothyroidism not included in the original language.

Sincerely,

Pat Krause

Patricia Krause
 Consultant on Territorial
 and Insular Affairs

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