



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

COMMISSION
CORRESPONDENCE

May 14, 1980

The Honorable Don Ritter
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Ritter:

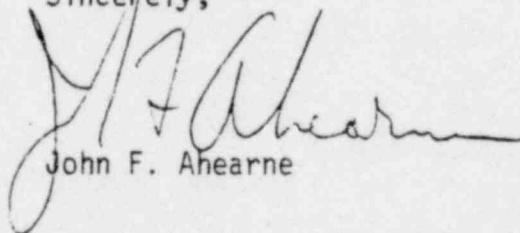
Thank you for your March 26 letter forwarding to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission a copy of H.R. 4939, your bill to authorize the Office of Science and Technology Policy to serve as a Federal focal point for encouraging technological risk comparisons.

The area of risk analysis and risk assessment, though in a highly formative stage, offers significant promise of developing methodology that will be helpful in making regulatory judgments. The NRC has recognized the role that risk assessment can play in carrying out our statutory mandates. We have a growing program of risk assessment research, and we are striving to increase the use of quantitative risk assessment in the regulatory process.

The rapid expansion in risk assessment studies reflects a widespread interest in developing a more comprehensive and rational understanding of risks. H.R. 4939 offers a timely opportunity to consider how the Federal government may act effectively toward achieving such an improved understanding. In summary, we believe the bill addresses a reasonable and highly desirable objective and that the approach proposed would be useful.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



John F. Ahearne

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