



COMMITTEE
FOR PURCHASE FROM THE
BLIND AND OTHER SEVERELY HANDICAPPED

October 25, 1989

703-557-1145
FAX 703-521-7713

Crystal Square 5, Room 1107
1755 Jefferson Davis Hwy.
Arlington, Virginia 22202-3509

Mr. Kenneth Carr
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Carr:

In conjunction with National Disability Employment Awareness Month, I am writing to acquaint you with the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program and seek your agency's help in achieving its goal.

JWOD is a Congressionally mandated program administered by an extremely small Federal agency: the Committee for Purchase from the Blind and Other Severely Handicapped. As the Committee's name implies, the program's goal is to help persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities. This is accomplished through Federal purchases of commodities and services from nonprofit State and local organizations providing employment and training for such individuals. The work generated by sales to the Federal Government provides persons with severe disabilities with opportunities to learn job skills and become productive participants in our economy.

While not needed by or appropriate for all persons with disabilities, the special employment and training opportunities resulting from the JWOD Program have over the years benefited thousands of persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities. During FY 1989, more than 18,000 individuals helped produce commodities or provide services under the JWOD Program. Despite its considerable achievements, however, the JWOD Program is not realizing its full potential nor meeting the employment and training needs of all persons who have a need for the type of vocational help it provides. Moreover, recent changes in Federal procurement practices threaten our ability to maintain even current assistance levels.

Through this letter, the Committee is seeking your support for this worthwhile program. In recent months, we have initiated a number of educational activities designed to bring the program to the attention of Federal employees and enlist their help in expanding JWOD purchases. These efforts will continue in the coming months and will include dissemination throughout the government of a poster promoting JWOD, as well as feature stories in various newsletters and other publications. The enclosed Annual Report and brochure are examples of the materials being prepared to convey the JWOD message.

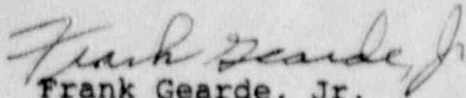
An Independent Agency of the United States Government Established by the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act.

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PDR COMMS NRCC
CORRESPONDENCE PDC

To assist us in educating the employees of your agency about how they can help persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, we would appreciate your designating an individual to serve as a JWOD liaison. Committee staff would then work with that person to explore ways of increasing your agency's support of the JWOD Program. Any questions about the program or this request should be directed to Jeff Kurtz of the Committee staff at 557-1145.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Frank Gearde, Jr.
Chairman

Enclosures