

10 December 1999

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Those portions of society with irrational fears should not be allowed to inappropriately sway decisions regarding policy that affects the lives of hundreds of millions of people through out the nation. Politically expedient decisions that do not have a logical basis, end up costing the American public hundreds, if not billions of dollars. Each dollar that is expended to assuage a segment of society, is a dollar that is not available for improving health care for the needy, improving the educational system, feeding the hungry, providing housing for the homeless and providing drug abuse prevention programs. There is a risk to society from the diversion of funds from these types of programs. The risks are real, not hypothetical. People are dying and will continue to die.

When the point is reached where decisions about what actions should or should not be taken and what level of control is or is not needed, then those making those decisions should remember that every dollar that is wantonly spent in excessive regulation has a mortality figure attached.

Decisions should be based on the actual risk values and not a perceived and arbitrarily selected value. Most industries have some sort of recycling program. The aluminum industry and some environmentally conscious groups extensively promote can recycling programs. But even a program as innocuous as that has an associated risk level. The people collecting the cans off the road sides have the potential for mortality through vehicle collisions or infections from cuts while collecting and sorting the material. It is not appropriate to hold one or several industries to a high standard than others for politically motivated reasons.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

The views expressed are personal opinions only and in no way should be construed as representative of any organization.

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