

Harvard Center for Risk Analysis



January 24, 2000

Dr. Gary A. Henderson
Director, International Scientific Relations
Kraft Foods
Postfach 830550
Munich, Germany 81705

Dear Dr. Henderson:

As you know, the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis is a mission-oriented unit at the Harvard School of Public Health. Our mission is to promote a more reasoned public response to safety, health, and environmental concerns. The purpose of this letter is to request that Kraft Foods make an unrestricted contribution of \$20,000.00 to the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis (HCRA). These funds will be used to support HCRA's educational, communications, and scientific activities.

HCRA was established in 1989 and has rapidly become recognized as a leader in national and worldwide efforts to bring insights from science and economics into public debates about health, safety, and environmental policy. Our four programmatic priorities are environmental health, automobile safety, medical technology, and food safety. We have enclosed a copy of HCRA's Biennial Report to provide further explanation of our programs and priorities.

A major HCRA priority for the next two years will be a book project entitled Enriching the Precautionary Principle for Public Health and Environmental Protection. This book arises out of concern that extreme demands for precaution are exerting a perverse influence on public policies toward energy production, biotechnology, synthetic chemicals, and pesticides. The book will build on HCRA's 1999 workshop, showing how risk-analytic thinking can produce a wiser formulation of the precautionary principle. Concise excerpts from the book on specific topics will appear in HCRA's Risk in Perspective.

During the last year, HCRA faculty and students have had several notable accomplishments:

- our faculty and students have published over 50 peer-reviewed scientific articles on a range of applied and methodologic topics in top journals such as Journal of The American Medical Association and Risk Analysis: An International Journal;
- we offered a package of eight risk-related courses to graduate students throughout Harvard University and advised six completed doctoral dissertations on risk-related topics;
- our bimonthly newsletter, Risk in Perspective, was disseminated to 15,000+ opinion leaders in the mass media, government, business, and non-profit organizations;
- our faculty provided congressional testimony to three different U.S. legislative committees on the need to integrate risk analysis into legislative reforms aimed at regulatory improvement;
- our intensive short courses on risk analysis and cost-benefit analysis served the training needs of 150 professionals in government and industry;
- our faculty have provided risk-related information to reporters in the electronic media (CNN, ABC-TV,

and NPR) as well as the national print media (USA TODAY and Associated Press); and


-we recently sponsored a policy workshop in Washington, DC on the "Precautionary Principle" which was attended by 150 professionals from the USA, Canada, Western Europe and Japan.

HCRA has received unrestricted contributions from over 60 Fortune 500 companies and several trade associations. Grants for project support have been provided by eight different federal agencies, including the National Science Foundation. Safeguards for the objectivity and quality of the Center's work are embedded in an explicit conflict-of-interest policy that is published in each of the Center's biennial reports. We also meet regularly with an external committee of scientists from academia, government, and industry to evaluate our activities and explore new project ideas

We understand that there may be specific risk-related issues that are of particular concern to you. I would be happy to meet with you in Munich at your convenience to better understand the nature of your concerns. You should also feel free to contact me or my administrator, Ellen Patterson, if there is any additional information about the Center that may be of interest to you.

Thank you very much in advance for your consideration of this request. We will contact you in several weeks to determine if you have needs for further information.

Sincerely,



John D. Graham, Ph.D.
Director