

Harvard Center for Risk Analysis

March 1, 1999



Dr. Gary A. Henderson
Director, International Scientific Relations
Kraft Foods
555 South Broadway
Tarrytown, New York 10591

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 \$25,000 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 five programmatic priorities are environmental health, automobile safety, medical technology, food safety, and home safety. We have enclosed a copy of HCRA's Biennial Report to provide further explanation of our programs and priorities.

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 (e.g., S. 981);
- our faculty have prepared op-ed pieces that promote or defend elected officials who support a stronger role for science and economics in regulatory decisions (e.g., an op-ed piece in the PORTLAND HERALD about Senator Susan Collins' support of risk analysis and 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);

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--we have formed new working groups to provide public comments to U.S. EPA on its implementation of the residual-risk provisions of the Clean Air Act and the negligible-risk provisions of the Food Quality Protection Act; and

--I was the recipient of the 1998 Public Service Award of the Annapolis Center for my contributions in risk communication with the American people.

During the next year, we plan to continue these lines of work while we add some exciting new activities. A Spring 1999 conference is being planned on "The Precautionary Principle: Refine It or Replace It?", with applications to issues of global climate change, biotechnology, endocrine disruption, and electric and magnetic fields. We have also begun some careful cost-benefit analyses to address new policies toward fine particulate matter being fashioned under the 1990 Amendments to the Clean Air Act. One of our new faculty members, Dr. Kimberly Thompson, is launching a new comparative risk analysis of hazards to children's health that is designed to stimulate a more rational allocation of resources. And we are expanding the Center's well-known database on lifesaving investments to include information on morbidity benefits and quality of life.

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 Tarrytown 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