



INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA - UAW

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May 11, 2001

IN REPLY REFER TO

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The Honorable Fred Thompson
Chair
Committee on Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Thompson:

On May 17, 2001, the Committee on Governmental Affairs is holding a hearing on the nomination of John Graham to head the Office of Information and Regulatory Analysis of the Office of Management and Budget. On behalf of 1.3 million active and retired UAW members and their families, we urge you to oppose the nomination of John Graham. In this critical job, he would oversee the promulgation, approval and rescission of all federal administrative rules protecting public health, safety, and the environment as well as those concerning economic regulation. We believe his extreme positions on the analysis of public health and safety regulations render him unsuited for this job.

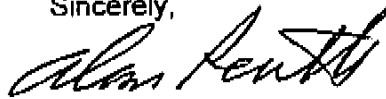
The UAW strongly supports Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards to protect against workplace hazards. We are also concerned about clean air, clean water, toxic waste, food, drug and product safety, and consumer protection rules. The OIRA serves as the gatekeeper for these standards and rules as well as for government collection of information on which to base public health protections.

The Harvard Center for Risk Analysis, which John Graham founded, has been the academic center for the deconstruction of our public health structure. Mr. Graham and his colleagues have advocated the full range of obstructions of new public protections: cost-benefit, cost-per-lives saved, comparative risk analysis, substitution risk, and so-called "peer review" which would give regulated industries a privileged seat at the table before the public could comment on a rule. Mr. Graham has testified before Congress in favor of imposing such obstacles on all public health agencies and all public health laws. His academic work is entirely in support of this agenda as well.

It already takes decades to set a new OSHA standard. Our members and their families need stronger public health protections, and Mr. Graham has demonstrated his opposition to such protections. We are concerned that, with Mr. Graham as the head of OIRA, public health and safety regulations will be further delayed, protections on the book now will be jeopardized, and the interests of workers and consumers will not be given adequate weight.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote against the nomination of John Graham to head OIRA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Reuther". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alan" being more prominent than the last name "Reuther".

Alan Reuther
Legislative Director

AR/BCS:fcg

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cc: Members, Committee on
Governmental Affairs