



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 30 2001

OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Matthew Cartter, MD, MPH
President
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
2872 Woodcock Boulevard, Suite 303
Atlanta, GA 30341-4015

Dear Dr. Cartter:

Thank you for your letter of July 20, 2001, to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Whitman. Your letter has been forwarded to EPA's Office of Research and Development for reply concerning the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) position statement on the Development of Environmental Public Health Indicators. As you know, several EPA scientists have served on the various CSTE subcommittees responsible for compiling the list of potential indicators accompanying the position statement. The Agency has also asserted the importance of establishing indicators that can reflect the health of our citizens and the environments in which they live. Such data is also important for measuring true environmental progress resulting from decisions made at federal, state and local levels. As such, we concur with the CSTE statement and look forward to continued participation in these discussions with CSTE and the other federal and state partners.

Since Dr. Harold Zenick in our Office of Research and Development serves as the EPA's liaison to several of the participating agencies and has built a strong working relationship with CSTE, I have asked him to serve as the Agency's senior lead and point of contact. In that capacity, Dr. Zenick will facilitate the communications and engagement of the appropriate Agency offices and programs where needed.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this partnership to improve environmental public health indicators.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "William H. Farland", is written over a horizontal line.

William H. Farland, Ph.D.
Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator
for Science

RECEIVED SEP 04 2001