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

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May 1, 1992
FaxedCharles Griffith
Ecology Center of Ann Arbor, Inc.
417 Detroit Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Mr. Griffith:

This letter is to acknowledge the support of the UAW Health and Safety Department for the Ecology Center's proposed project to evaluate auto pollution prevention strategies. As you know, the UAW is very interested in the prospects for new and safer technologies and industrial processes within auto manufacturing. It is critical that these processes are evaluated carefully, however, given the many tradeoffs that inevitably arise in the choice of new technologies. We do not believe that it is a major success, for example, to substitute one process that is environmentally problematic for another that may involve occupational health hazards.

Provided that resources are made available to carry out the project, the UAW Health and Safety Department would be happy to participate. Specifically, we would participate on the project's Joint Advisory Committee and help to identify other appropriate UAW officials with an interest in this project. Through the Advisory Committee, we would assist the Ecology Center in prioritizing problematic processes and in evaluating alternative pollution prevention options.

To a large extent, the UAW is already involved in evaluating industrial processes in the auto industry for their health and safety impacts. This project, however, would give us an opportunity to interact with environmental and other organizations in a more comprehensive analysis of technological options available to the industry. The UAW shares a strong concern about the health of the Great Lakes and its inhabitants, and agrees that joint efforts to protect worker health and safety and environmental safety should yield the most positive results.

The process of evaluating pollution prevention options will benefit from an open process that brings forward a range of interests and expertise. Ideally, the UAW and other groups will be able to participate directly with industry and government representatives in such evaluation. Nonetheless, it is still critical that additional groups be involved in the analysis of the industry's pollution prevention proposals.

Once again, the UAW is enthusiastic about the Ecology Center's proposed project and looks forward to participating on this important issue.

Sincerely,

*Franklin E. Mirer*Franklin E. Mirer, Ph.D.
Director
Health and Safety Department
International Union, UAW

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