



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

NOV 9 2006

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

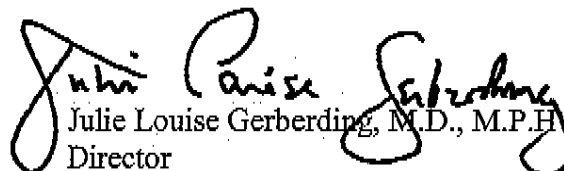
Thank you for your letter to Dr. John Howard regarding the effects of increasing exposure to radiofrequency radiation (RFR) and the importance of detecting health effects of long-term exposure to low-level electromagnetic fields (EMF). Dr. Howard has forwarded your letter to me, and I would like to respond directly to you on this issue.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has made significant contributions in the past, maintains scientific expertise in this area, and continues to be an active participant globally. NIOSH is now funding a grant on "Textile Industry Exposures and Breast Cancer in Women" that is focused on EMF exposures. The Institute is also participating in a multi-national study by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). Dr. Joseph Bowman, our remaining active researcher in this area, serves on the IARC group that has been assessing the study subjects' exposures to RFR in the workplace. The goal is to detect any increased incidence of head and neck cancer from the RFR emitted by cell phones and workplace sources.

During the past year, NIOSH has been in discussions with stakeholders to develop a list of research priorities for the second decade of the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) in an effort to identify high priority occupational safety and health research for the nation and to encourage partnerships to conduct that research. A group of dedicated stakeholders has provided strong support for research on exposures to EMF and RFR. The process of priority setting continues and the results of the IARC study may again focus attention in this area. The studies funded by NIOSH for NORA, both within NIOSH and through grants, are selected through competitive processes emphasizing scientific quality.

We appreciate your interest in our mission and look forward to the results of the IARC study to guide our future work on exposures to EMF and RFR.

Sincerely,


Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director