



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

June 2, 2006

THE DIRECTOR

The Honorable Ted Strickland  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ted,

I am writing to address your concerns about the Administration's implementation of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA). EEOICPA was enacted to compensate workers for the illnesses suffered as a result of their work building our Nation's nuclear defense. The Administration shares your desire that its implementation conform to the law and congressional intent.

The Administration is not pursuing any program changes to modify benefit costs of EEOICPA, or instituting any White House-led EEOICPA-related interagency workgroup or any new internal procedures concerning the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (the Advisory Board). There will be no steps taken by the Administration to reduce the amount of Special Exposure Cohort petition approvals in order to minimize benefit payments. This Administration will also continue to meet the statutory requirements that the Advisory Board reflect a balance of scientific, medical, and worker perspectives. The Administration's goal is to provide workers with the benefits they deserve in a prompt and timely way, and to ensure that all agencies comply with the law and congressional intent.

The Administration deeply appreciates the sacrifices that these workers have made in building the nation's nuclear defense, and will continue to carry out EEOICPA in a way that treats them fairly and compassionately. The Administration will work to ensure that scientific determinations and the law govern which workers receive compensation under this program and will not allow budgetary concerns to override those determinations.

Thank you for taking the time to communicate your views on this important matter. I look forward to working with you in my new capacity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Portman", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rob Portman