

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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President Jimmy Carter
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

We were very pleased to notice that you had a meeting with Dr. E. F. Schumacher on Tuesday, March 22. We have long believed that Dr. Schumacher's ideas are the key to environmentally benign, energy conserving development in this country and abroad.

It is clear to us that many of our nation's problems simply cannot be solved by large-scale technologies. These capital intensive approaches frequently consume tremendous amounts of energy and have seriously harmful environmental side-effects. A group in the United States inspired by Schumacher's concepts, the National Center for Appropriate Technology, on the other hand, has demonstrated dramatically that small-scale technologies can conserve a tremendous amount of money and energy, are ecologically sound, and can provide employment opportunities for many people in meaningful, productive work.

There are many examples of such technologies, from family farms to solar energy to homes built of native materials. Entirely on their own initiative, a variety of people around the country have shown the practicality of small-scale technologies.

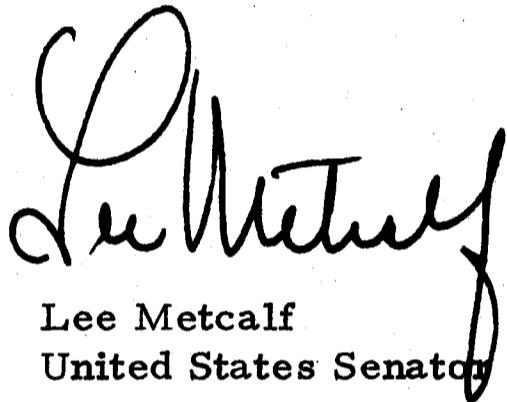
Unfortunately, the government continues to funnel virtually all of its research and development money to large firms pursuing large-scale technologies. It seems obvious to us that the government should instead be encouraging the development of those approaches that offer real long-term solutions to our environmental, social and energy problems, but whose supporters lack the resources and the avenues of access to make these technologies widely available. Because they are small in scale, decentralized in application, and differ according to region and purpose, they do not lend themselves to centralized distribution.

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We want to urge you as strongly as possible, therefore, to adopt a broad and effective government program of support for the kind of technologies you and Dr. Schumacher no doubt discussed and that are being developed by such groups as the National Center for Appropriate Technology.

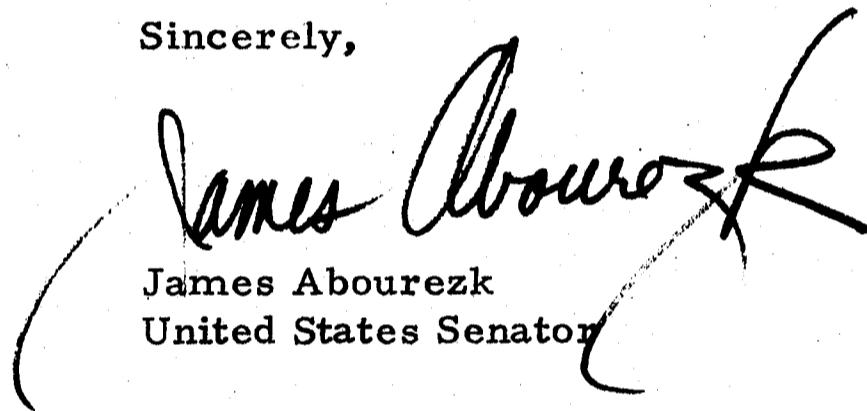
We will be looking forward to your response to this matter.

Best regards.



Lee Metcalf
United States Senator

Sincerely,



James Abourezk
United States Senator