

JUL 22 2005

Dear Senator Frist:

In a 2001 Rose Garden ceremony, the President called for the United States to join the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, also known as "POPs." In 2002, the Administration submitted proposed legislation to Congress that would enable us to join and participate in POPs, as well as the Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. We have welcomed the intensive work Congress committed to the legislative process throughout the last session. It is now critical that the legislative process be completed.

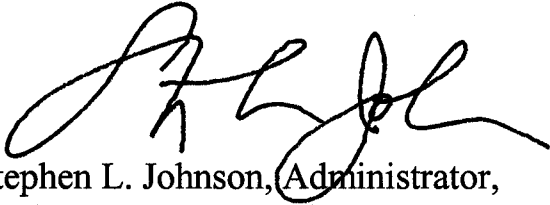
In May, the U.S. delegation returned from the first POPs Conference of the Parties in Uruguay. Since we were not a party, we failed to obtain membership on an important committee that will review and make recommendations on additional chemicals for future inclusion on the POPs list. The U.S. role in POPs meetings could be further limited if Congress does not act quickly to adopt necessary implementing legislation, compounding the negative repercussions for U.S. leadership in international chemicals fora.

The Senate and the House have made significant progress developing legislation that provides a solid foundation on which to rapidly conclude the process. We are committed to working closely with you and other Members of Congress to accomplish this shared objective.

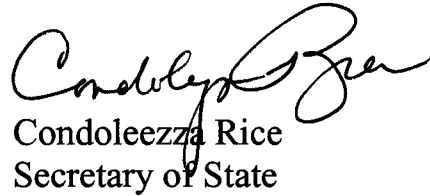
The Honorable  
Bill Frist,  
United States Senate.

Thank you for your support on this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. L. Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator,  
Environmental Protection Agency

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Condoleezza Rice', written in a cursive style.

Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State