

SM Wald <waldo@hamptons.com>
03/28/2003 09:25:17 PM

Record Type:Record

To: Lorraine D. Hunt OIRA ECON GUIDE/OMB/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Why are seniors' lives considered more disposable than younger people's?

SM Wald
P.O. Box 1619
Southampton, NY 11969-1619

March 28, 2003

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Lorraine Hunt
Office of Management and Budget, NEOB
Room 10202, 725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Hunt:

I am extremely concerned to learn that the "OMB Draft Guidelines for the Conduct of Regulatory Analysis and the Format of Accounting Statements" determines that saving the life of an elderly person is worth less than saving the life of a younger person.

As an American citizen who is the child of a senior citizen, I find that devaluing an elderly person's life is unethical and unmoral. It is simply unacceptable.

The analysis proposes to devalue the life of a human over 70 to 2/3 that of the rest of the population and lowers the established EPA price tag of a human life from \$6.1 million to \$3.7 million.

This is a mere pretext to cut the value of health and safety standards in order to protect the industries that stand to gain from this White House initiative.

The OMB's conclusion that the lives of senior citizens are less valuable raises serious ethical and scientific questions.

If analysis is fully put into practice, regulations for air pollution, toxic waste cleanup, food labeling and other quality of life issues could be weakened or not even implemented at all—and our senior citizens will feel the brunt of it since their health is the most vulnerable to dirty air and unhealthy food.

I urge you to oppose these barbaric OMB Draft Guidelines, and replace them with ones that are more scientifically accurate and humane.

Sincerely,
Susan M. Wald