

June 2, 1989

MEMORANDUM

To: Walter Woodson
From: Susan Stuntz *SM*
Re: D.C. City Council and Radon

AFGE's David Schlein, whose union represents workers in D.C. and federal government buildings, has been invited to testify next week before the D.C. City Council's Committee on Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, on Bill 8-163 -- the Indoor Safe Air Act of 1989.

The legislation, introduced by John Ray, deals strictly with radon. Schlein's invitation to testify comes as a result of his increasing visibility on all indoor air quality issues on behalf of his union. He will testify, and has asked for LMC assistance in drafting his testimony.

We essentially have two choices:

First, to help him. Assistance would amount to providing him with draft testimony that would support the intent of the radon bill, but note a broader IAQ problem facing government workers. In the past, Schlein has taken that draft and made his own revisions; thus, the testimony he presents is his own. However, our willingness to provide assistance enables us to maintain a good working relationship for the future.

Our second choice is to refuse to help. In this case, Schlein would still appear, having drafted his own testimony. That testimony no doubt would continue to refer to a broader problem. However, we would concede the opportunity to make suggestions. More importantly, we would seriously damage our relationship with Schlein, which is still in the formative stages. Damage at this point would make it more difficult -- if not impossible -- to approach Schlein in the future on indoor air or smoking restriction legislation in D.C. or federal buildings.

John Ray (M.C.)
Robert Woodson

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Equally important, Schlein is scheduled to meet later this month with Cardiss Collins' staffers concerning indoor air issues in GSA-controlled buildings. Our refusal to assist him at this stage will certainly mean that we have no opportunity to work with him as he plans for that meeting.

Unless we hear otherwise, we would like to be able to agree to work with Schlein on his draft testimony. TI would have an opportunity to review any draft before it goes to Schlein. We will not, however, have an opportunity to review Schlein's final testimony.

Please let me know if you've questions, or if SAD sees any problems with this course of action.

cc: Martin Gleason
John Lyons
Kay Thomas

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