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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 4, 1976

Dear Russ:

I accept with the deepest regret your letter of September 1 conveying your decision to resign as Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, effective October 1, 1976. In doing so, I want you to know that I fully understand the considerations and rare opportunity which prompt your decision. I am, however, very reluctant to lose your wise leadership in an area of such importance to America.

Your role in the work of this Administration has been a vital one. I am keenly aware of your contributions toward our goal of a better life for all our citizens. You have consistently, and with great insight, strengthened our efforts to meet the challenges of improving the quality of our environment. All of us who have had the privilege of working with you will miss your thoughtful guidance.

Personally, I am heartened at this time only by the knowledge that you leave here to organize and head a new organization, "New Directions." Your service, I know, will be of the same high caliber as you have given to all your past endeavors and will benefit not only America but the entire world as well. I appreciate what you are doing, and I wish you every success.

With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,



The Honorable Russell W. Peterson
Chairman
Council on Environmental Quality
722 Jackson Place, NW.
Washington, D.C. 20006

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dick Cheney)

I have in Russ
Peterson's resignation.
He would like my
tho of acceptance &
his tho released tomorrow
(sat).

Have good, complimentary
tho written for signature
& release.