

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.

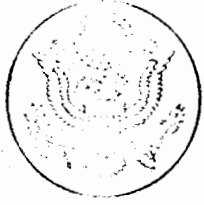
Personally, I am heartened at this time only by the knowledge that you leave here to organize and head a new organization, "New Directions." Your service, I know, will be of the same high caliber as you have given to all your past endeavors and will benefit not only America but the entire world as well.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



COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WASHINGTON

CHAIRMAN

September 1, 1976

Dear Mr. President:

I hereby submit my resignation as a member and Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality effective October 1, 1976.

Recently, I was asked by a group of distinguished Americans to organize and lead a new non-partisan citizens organization, "New Directions." I have decided to do so effective October 1, 1976.

New Directions will be a new political force in America; a citizens' lobby focussing on solutions to global problems and linked to organizations of similar interest around the world.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in your Administration. I believe the Council on Environmental Quality has made an important contribution toward furthering the quality of the human environment. I hope you think so, too. In my view, the potential for CEQ to aid in the years ahead in fully implementing the National Environmental Policy Act is high.

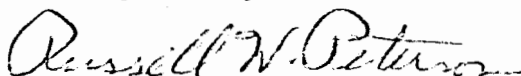
My experience as Chairman of CEQ has been invaluable to me. It has strengthened my convictions of the interdependence of people everywhere, of the need for man to live in harmony with others and with nature and to stop being so wasteful, of the need for more long range, global, holistic thinking and planning, and of the necessity - if our way of life is to survive - for all of us to work diligently to help the poorest of the poor everywhere to help themselves. It has taught me that there is a major spiritual force aborning among our people that embodies the above convictions. It is the objective of New Directions to help nurture, organize and focus that force. It is the challenge to head this effort that has led me to resign from CEQ.

It is essential to my new position that I establish and maintain a non-partisan status. Accordingly, I will not be involved in the current political campaign.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve with you.

With warm regards and best wishes,

Respectfully,


Russell W. Peterson

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500