



CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK 7, N.Y.

January 18, 1965

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The Honorable Edmund S. Muskie, Chairman
Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution
Senate Committee on Public Works
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Senator Muskie:

The air pollution control legislation which you and 19 of your colleagues have recently introduced in the Senate represents an important advance towards an intelligent national approach to this crucial problem. The report of your subcommittee, I am happy to say, reaffirms many of the findings of this city's Department of Air Pollution Control, and your bill embraces several of the solutions I have proposed in the past.

Within the confines of its limited budget, New York City's Department of Air Pollution Control has made steady progress in applying solutions to the various pollution problems we face here, but we are keenly aware of the fact that the condition of the air cannot be confined within any one city or state.

Your report came to grips with the problems raised by all of the major sources of pollution, as well as the nation's needs if it is ever really to conquer this growing threat to our health. We believe that more effective cooperation between federal, state, regional and municipal authorities is vital to the eventual solution of the total problem. Frequently, there are glib and inaccurate references made to air pollution in central cities, even though the cities may have an active, aggressive control program. Rarely do we hear much about the municipalities which surround these cities, although, likely as not, they have no control programs whatsoever.

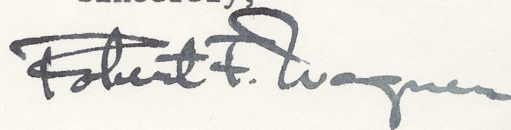
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With the cooperation and assistance of the U. S. Public Health Service, New York City recently promulgated a revised Air Pollution Control Code. Among other things, it contains a basic approach to the problem of removing oxides of sulfur from our atmosphere, but a much broader approach must be taken -- beyond the powers of any one city -- before real progress in eliminating this poison can be made.

Uniformity of laws and standards in the area of air pollution control is regarded by us as the first and perhaps most important step to be taken in addressing the problem on a national level. Lacking such uniformity, we are faced with the prospect of 50 varying sets of regulations which could well render air pollution control chaotic.

I wish to congratulate you and your subcommittee on what you have thus far accomplished and upon the bill which you have introduced. It is our hope that future proposed legislation will deal with the other facets of the question which were examined in your report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert F. Wagner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Robert F. Wagner
M A Y O R