

WU INFOMASTER

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PMS THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500



DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

AS PRESIDENT OF A MANUFACTURING COMPANY IN BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY CONCERN ABOUT THE GROWING COST OF ELECTRICITY IN OUR AREA AND TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP.

READING INDUSTRIES, INC. IS A PRODUCER OF COPPER AND BRASS TUBING FOR USE IN THE HOUSING, BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRIES. WE HAVE FOUR PLANTS IN THE READING AREA EMPLOYING A TOTAL OF 700 EMPLOYEES.

ALTHOUGH WE BUDGETED FOR A REASONABLE INCREASE IN OUR ELECTRIC COSTS FOR THE YEAR 1980, WE STILL RAN \$600,000 OVER BUDGET, AS A RESULT OF A COST INCREASE OF 68% FOR ELECTRICITY TO OUR LOCATIONS WHICH ARE

SERVICED BY METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY.

OPERATING A BUSINESS PROFITABLY IN THE FACE OF SUCH A STEEP INCREASE IS DIFFICULT. SINCE THE RISING ENERGY COSTS AT OTHER LOCATIONS WERE MILD IN COMPARISON TO THIS INCREASE, IT HAS BECOME EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO COMPETE WITH OTHER COPPER TUBE PRODUCERS.

I UNDERSTAND THAT METROPOLITAN EDISON, THE OWNER OF TMI, COULD CONTROL THEIR INCREASES FAR BETTER IF THE UNDAMAGED UNIT AT TMI WAS BACK IN OPERATION. I REALIZE THERE ARE MANY AND DIFFICULT QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE WHOLE THREE MILE ISLAND SITUATION; HOWEVER, THIS IS ONE SPECIFIC ACTION THAT COULD BE TAKEN. SOMETHING MUST BE DONE TO REMOVE THE BURDEN ON INDUSTRIES IN OUR AREA IF THEY ARE TO SURVIVE AND PROSPER.

I SINCERELY HOPE YOU WILL DO EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER TO HELP US.

READING INDUSTRIES, INC.

RICHARD A STROUCE,
PRESIDENT

COPIES TO: ERNEST M. ELLIENHAUSEN, MET-ED, READING, PA
THE HONORABLE RICHARD THORNBURGH
THE HONORABLE JOHN HEINZ, III
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THE HONORABLE SUSAN SHANAMAN, CHAIRMAN, PA PUC
THE HONORABLE IVAN W. SMITH, CHAIRMAN, AS&L BOARD

JR

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