

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6250

Dear Senator Lieberman:

Thank you for your August 10, 2001 letter to Administrator Whitman forwarding the correspondence from your constituent, Steven Franko. The Administrator has asked that I respond to your letter. Mr. Franko expressed concern that, although the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends the purchase of retread tires, few agencies are buying them.

EPA actively promotes the use of recycled-content products throughout the federal government. Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and Executive Order 13101, EPA is required to issue a Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG) for federal procurement of products containing recovered materials. These guidelines identify and designate recycled products and provide recommendations to agencies for purchasing these items. Once designated, agencies are required to buy the items with the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable. To date, EPA has designated a total of 54 items, including retread tires, and will propose another 11 items in the next week or so. More information on the CPG program can be found on our internet site at [www.epa.gov/cpg](http://www.epa.gov/cpg).

While EPA has authority to designate items under RCRA and Executive Order 13101, the responsibility for ensuring that federal agencies implement the procurement guidelines and buy recycled products rests with the Federal Environmental Executive (FEE) who heads the White House Task Force on Recycling. I will provide a copy of your letter and this response to the Task Force. EPA does maintain a list of manufacturers and suppliers of the recycled-content items we have designated, so we would appreciate receiving information on Mr. Franko's company. He can forward this information to Mr. Terry Grist in our Office of Solid Waste at [grist.terry@epa.gov](mailto:grist.terry@epa.gov) or by calling (703) 308-7257.

The White House Task Force on Recycling has taken steps to increase the federal government's use of retread tires by working with the Department of Defense on their Cooperative Tire Qualification Program, including the Cooperative Approval Tire List and the Cooperative Plant Qualification Program. These programs are meant to help develop standard specifications and quality controls for retread tires purchased by the federal government. More information on these programs can be obtained from Ms. Dana Arnold at the White House Task

Force on Recycling at (202) 564-1297. Information on these and other programs of the White House Task Force on Recycling is also available on the internet at [www.ofee.gov](http://www.ofee.gov).

I hope this information is helpful in responding to your constituent and I appreciate your longstanding concern for the environment.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Shapiro  
Acting Assistant Administrator

cc: Dana Arnold, White House Task Force on Recycling