

December 13, 1999

Mr. Henry Sandus
Bandremer Apt. 2510
20281 E. Country Club Drive
Aventura, FL 33180

Dear Mr. Sandus:

Thank you for your October 10, 1999 letter to President Clinton about your process to recycle paper products into office furniture and reduce the number of trees used for furniture production. The White House sent your letter to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) so that we could respond.

As you know from your discussions with Mr. Grist of the Municipal and Industrial Solid Waste Division, we are currently evaluating office furniture for designation under the Agency's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines program. Both the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the President's Executive Order 13101, require EPA to issue guidelines for the 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, we have designated a total of 36 items and will finalize 18 more within the next month. We expect to propose a number of office furniture products early next year and I have asked Mr. Grist to keep you informed of our progress.

I appreciate your interest in manufacturing recycled products and the time you have taken to share your thoughts. We remain committed to promoting the purchase and use of recycled-content products in the Federal government and we will continue to work with other agencies to help them buy recycled products.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Cotsworth, Director
Office of Solid Waste

RO 14410