

**ENVIRONMENTAL
DEFENSE
FUND**



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Dear Friend:

At its present rate, cancer will strike one of every four Americans.

Yet recent estimates by the World Health Organization and the National Cancer Institute indicate that as much as 70% to 90% of human cancer may result from man-made substances currently being added to our environment and is thus potentially preventable. While hundreds of millions of dollars are being spent annually on research for a cure and treatment of cancer, comparatively little is being spent to find and control the causes of cancer.

I would like to tell you about one organization that has been working successfully to publicly identify and control the presence of cancer-causing agents in our environment. That organization is the Environmental Defense Fund.

EDF is a legal action group of highly skilled attorneys, scientists and economists who have been working since 1967 to protect our environment and halt the waste of America's precious natural resources. EDF aims to see that your future needs and those of your children will be soundly met.

In addition to its many other projects (please see the enclosed booklet), EDF in 1974 launched a Toxic Chemicals Program to identify and limit human health hazards caused by various substances now found in our food, in our drinking water and in the air we breathe.

EDF's Toxic Chemicals Program has already won some important victories. Building on earlier EDF actions which resulted in the banning of the pesticide DDT, EDF attorneys recently brought a halt to most manufacture of the pesticides aldrin and dieldrin, because they were proven to cause cancer in laboratory tests.

In Minnesota, in a case having major national implications, EDF is seeking to prevent the Reserve Mining Company from continuing to discharge industrial wastes which contain asbestos fibers into Lake Superior. Scientific evidence shows that asbestos

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fibers are carcinogenic (cancer-causing). In other parts of the nation -- as in the recent highly publicized case of New Orleans -- EDF scientists are exposing the implications of cancer-causing substances in drinking water and taking direct action to minimize the hazard.

In all these situations, EDF is asking the courts and other authorities to consider this question: How many Americans must die to "prove" that a substance causes cancer? We think a substance is proven "guilty" when it is shown to be potentially carcinogenic. Human life deserves that benefit of the doubt.

In representing your environmental needs and those of all Americans, EDF does more than file lawsuits. For us, a good case is one where our staff scientists present carefully documented alternative plans to assure progress in the least environmentally destructive manner. EDF also provides government policy-makers and the public with the facts needed to act on a problem before it gets out of hand. Like you, we want the government to do its job: we want the government to protect us and our environment.

That is why I am writing to ask you to join the Environmental Defense Fund. EDF depends on its 53,000 members for support. Annual dues are \$15.00 -- but any contribution is welcome and needed.

The challenges ahead are even greater than the challenges already met. The more members we have, the more effective we will be. We hope you will join with us in this work in which all of us have such a vital stake.

Best wishes,



Arlie Schardt
Executive Director

P.S. A gift of \$100 or more will enable us to list you as a Sponsor of EDF's new Toxic Chemicals Program. All gifts, of course, are deductible for income tax purposes.