



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 27 2004

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Michael Crapo  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Senator Crapo:

Thank you for your letter of July 21, 2004, urging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take a leadership role in educating future generations of health physicists. I appreciate your suggestions on how EPA might assume a leadership role in ensuring the education of future generations of nuclear health physicists.

You will be pleased to know that EPA recently made changes to its Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Fellowship Program, which now explicitly includes health physics students in competing for fellowships. EPA made this change to the STAR Program in consultation with both the Department of Energy and EPA's Office of Radiation. The Agency's STAR Graduate Fellowship Program offers up to three years of support to the best of America's students who are pursuing graduate degrees in environmentally relevant disciplines at many of the Nation's most distinguished universities.

I hope you will agree that EPA's STAR Program program now offers increased opportunities to build our nation's workforce in many critical areas, including health physics. I appreciate your interest and confidence in EPA's environmental and research education programs and thank you for your suggestion on how EPA could play a role in addressing the nation's looming shortage of radiation health experts.

Again, thank you for your letter. Complete application information on the STAR Graduate Fellowship Program can be found on EPA's website (<http://es.epa.gov/nceer>). The application receipt deadline for the fall, 2005, STAR Fellowships is November 23, 2004. If you have further questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Melinda Cross in the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 564-1384.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael O. Leavitt".

Michael O. Leavitt