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The Rt Hon the Lord Young of Graffham
Department of Trade and Industry
Victoria Street
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My ref:
Your ref:

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Dear Secretary of State

DTI ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME

Thank you for your letter of 4 May in which you described the new policy initiative you are launching on 10 May on business and the environment.

I strongly support your approach. It is not possible - if it ever was - to separate out the interests of business and the environment: their fortunes are inextricably bound up with one another. Environmental protection provides substantial opportunities for industrial innovation and trade which our competitors, such as the Federal Republic of Germany, are exploiting faster than we are. Equally, as you say, the protection and enhancement of the environment increasingly depends on the ability of industry to develop benign technologies. CFCs are a particular case in point, and I am pleased that DTI has commissioned a study to examine the opportunities for reducing business use of products which harm the ozone layer.

The programme you have devised is imaginative and practical and I am sure ~~well~~ have an impact. I think your booklet conveys the right messages in a punchy and convincing way. I particularly support your proposed campaign to improve standards of industrial waste management. Virginia Bottomley has had discussions with Robert Atkins about this theme and the proposal to join with the CBI to sponsor a high profile conference on waste management in the autumn will be well-timed, not only to pick up the lines running from the DTI Environmental Initiative, but also to engage the attention of industry to the waste minimisation implications of the prospective Green Bill, which are considerable.

I am afraid that pressures on the diary are such that we cannot field a Minister to support you at the launch at WSL on 10 May, but you may freely speak of the warm support you enjoy in his initiative from me and my colleagues.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Cecil Parkinson, John MacGregor, John Major and Sir Robin Butler.

CE Bush

PP NICHOLAS RIDLEY

(Approved by the Secretary of State
and signed in his absence)

BN Affair - Aud Rev

