

File

MEMORANDUM TO SENATOR DOLE

DA: February 15, 1995

FR: Alec Vachon

RE: UPDATE ON ADA & STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

As I wrote you (memo attached), working to fix some reported problems with ADA. Again, this project is proactive--as far as I know, you have not received any requests to change ADA, nor have contacts with state & local government associations yielded any requests. For example, Mayor Victor Ashe of Knoxville, currently President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, has been vocal about the costs of curb cuts, but has not asked the Conference to work on this matter.

I am working also to keep the heat down. As you know, disability issues are emotionally and politically charged--for example, during the unfunded mandates debate Chairman Goodling felt obliged to issue on a letter of support for ADA (attached).

EXTENDING THE DEADLINE FOR CURB CUTS

- * Curb cuts are a large, unique capital expense--and the single biggest complaint of local governments. Attached is a draft letter to the Justice Department to amend the regs to extend the deadline--working proposal is 5 more years for curbs cuts in heavily traveled areas; 10 years in other places. All four other ADA co-sponsors, Harkin, Hatch, Kennedy, and McCain are willing to sign this letter.
- * I met with Justice officials this morning--they are ready to act when they get the letter.
- * To drum up support, on Friday I will meet with the National Association of Counties, the National Association of Towns and Townships, and the National League of Cities--next week, U.S. Conference of Mayors and perhaps NGA.
- * This letter should be ready to go after these meetings.

SIMPLIFY REGULATORY BURDEN--BUILDING CODES

- * Attached is another letter to Justice--asking it to certify the three model building codes upon which virtually all 15,000 state and local building codes are based. State and local governments will not have to apply for approval of their codes--automatic as long as they use a model code. This suggestion came from a building code inspector in Overland Park, Tim Ryan, who you met with last year.

JUSTICE TO MEET WITH STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATIONS

- * Justice has agreed to meet with state & local government associations to improve technical assistance--will discuss this with the state and local government associations.

FRIST HEARINGS ON ADA IMPLEMENTATION

- * Frist, as new Chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Policy, is interested in holding hearings in July on ADA (ADA anniversary). Any problems with ADA could be raised in this hearings.