



RELEASED

B-180224

April 19, 1978

The Honorable Alfred E. Kahn
Chairman, Civil Aeronautics
Board

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Several inquiries have been received concerning GAO's position on President Carter's Paperwork Reduction Program initiated in February 1977, and how it relates to the independent regulatory agencies. We fully support the objectives of the President's Paperwork Burden Reduction Program. The GAO does not intend, however, to initiate a separate burden reduction program for the independent regulatory agencies. Therefore, we encourage you to support and actively participate in the President's Program.

The best opportunity for limiting paperwork burdens is for each agency head to accept responsibility for insuring that the agency obtain only that information absolutely necessary for accomplishing the agency's mission. We think the requirement for assessing the practical utility of reports about to expire is especially important, and provides an excellent tool for weeding out unneeded information.

We will be monitoring progress toward achieving the goals of the President's Program and hope to provide the Congress with useful information highlighting the independent regulatory agencies' efforts. The GAO will also be monitoring agencies' implementation of the Commission on Federal Paperwork's recommendations. As you know, the Office of Management and Budget is required by statute to send semiannual reports to the President and the Congress on this subject. We will be reviewing these progress reports as well as individual reports which are submitted to OMB by the various agencies.

To assist us in our monitoring efforts, we would appreciate receiving copies of any reports your Agency provides the Office of Management and Budget regarding the Paperwork Commission's recommendations or your burden reduction efforts. It would be helpful if we could receive these copies at the same time they are forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget. They can be sent to Mr. John M. Lovelady, Assistant Director, Regulatory Reports Review, General Government Division, Room 5106, 441 G Street, NW., Washington DC 20548.

I thank you for your cooperation in this matter

Sincerely yours,

Frederic B. Staedt

Comptroller General
of the United States

cc: Mr. John J. Sandy, CAB