

4. POLICY POSITION

RISK ASSESSMENT

BACKGROUND

Recently Congress has been considering the use of risk assessment, comparative risk assessment and cost/benefit analysis in the development of environmental, health and safety statutes and regulations. For instance, on April 29, 1993, by a vote of 95 to 3, the U.S. Senate adopted an amendment to the Department of Environment Bill (S.171). The amendment provided that all future environmental, health and safety regulations of the proposed Department of Environment include consideration of an analysis of the risks that are addressed by the regulation; a comparison of the costs of implementing and complying with the regulation; and the benefits to be derived from such regulation.

RECOMMENDATION

The Southern Legislative Conference requests that Congress incorporate requirements for risk assessment, comparative risk assessment and cost/benefit analysis, similar to the amendment to S. 171, in all federal environmental, health and safety statutes.