

Appendix K

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 13, 1984

Mr. Erich Bloch, Director
National Science Foundation
1800 G Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20550

Dear Mr. Bloch:

Dr. Paul LaViolette of Portland State University recently contacted my office regarding federal climate research efforts presently under way at the National Science Foundation (NSF) or elsewhere. Dr. LaViolette has presented to the Committee extremely interesting research results and scientific papers written on experiments conducted at Portland State.

His research addresses the abrupt climactic changes that have occurred over geological time. He hypothesizes that such changes are the result of sudden incursions of cosmic dust into our solar systems, causing dramatic temperature changes.

I am interested to know if research into major climactic shifts is presently being funded by NSF, and if so, are the investigators aware of Dr. LaViolette's hypothesis.

Needless to say, the phenomenon of sudden climactic shifts has enormous import to all of us and all reasonable hypotheses should be carefully examined.

I enclose copies of Dr. LaViolette's abstracts and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



BOB PACKWOOD

BP/bmj

Enclosures