



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF CHEYENNE

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April 16, 2004

Justice Anne M. Burke  
Interim Chair  
National Review Board  
3211 Fourth Street NE  
Washington, D.C. 20017

Dear Justice Burke,

I have received a copy of your letter to Bishop Wilton Gregory. I am sorry to see that the National Review Board has taken such umbrage at the Administrative Committees' decision to postpone the proposal regarding another audit for future consideration.

As one bishop of a very small rural diocese with a huge geography, I would like to express my appreciation to all of you on the board, as I know other bishops have done also. However, it becomes very impractical and heavily burdensome for small rural dioceses to continue another audit, even to expand it into the parishes, without a lot of planning and fund raising. I think the intent of the bishops has been made very clear by most of us being fully cooperative in the process of the first audit and also being very cooperative with the John Jay Study.

I sincerely doubt that most people in the other professions would be nearly as cooperative as the bishops have been, let alone this generous in providing this kind of self scrutiny and leadership. I was not privy to the discussions at the Administrative Committees Meeting but I am sure that they have many of these same thoughts and considerations in mind.

I do believe that, after such a storm for two years, the bishops need a bit of a break to reflect on all that has happened so that we can move ahead, thoughtfully and prayerfully, instead of rushing in and making a lot of mistakes that we later regret.

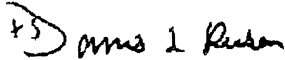
*oh really?*

Thank you for your service to this committee. I would hope that you and the National Review Board would understand our position and want to be cooperative with us in trying to protect our children, our young people, our parishes, and the generous gifts that

the people have already given to us for the sake of pastoral outreach and care to the people within our jurisdictions.

Thanking you and wishing you a happy Easter Season, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Ricken". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross symbol at the beginning.

**The Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL**  
**Bishop of Cheyenne**

**Cc: Most Reverend Wilton Gregory**  
**Most Reverend Charles Chaput**