



ATLAS ECONOMIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Founded 1981

May 14, 2002

Mr. Nick Welch
Shell Oil Company
1401 Eye Street, NW, Suite 1030
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Nick:

I am very glad you were able to join us last week at the Cato Anniversary Dinner. It's a shame that prize-winner Peter Bauer passed away too early to accept his prize, but I'm glad you got to see John deliver Bauer's remarks and appear with Milton Friedman. I saw John later that evening, after the dinner, and he was sorry that he missed you.

I enjoyed learning about your work at Shell – the different angles you need to analyze in so many different parts of the world. Please keep my name in your files, in case you would like to some references in regard to the local allies Atlas has in various countries. (Am I remembering correctly that Russia, Nigeria, and Turkey are among the ones you mentioned last week?) The think tanks we work with come in all shapes and sizes, but many play important roles in their civil society and are looking for opportunities to help bring economic development to their countries.

Also, since Atlas acts like an “umbrella group” that serves this whole network, we can help coordinate efforts that address policy goals that represent both of our organization's best interests. Our work with think tanks operating at the grassroots tends to produce results that are viewed as more credible than alternative methods of advancing policy goals. So let me know if you would ever like to schedule a meeting with me, or with others in our organization that could give you a broader perspective on our work.

Again, hope you had a good time at the Cato dinner.

Sincerely,

Bradley A. Lips
Chief Operating Officer