February 20, 1958

Prof. H. Petterson
Geophysical Department
University of Hawaii
T. H.

Dear Prof. Petterson:

I have just noted your article on the accretion of cosmic dust in the February 1 Nature. You may think it strange to have a communication from a geneticist, but I believe the enclosed memorandum will explain the basis of it.

May I enquire just how much air you did conveniently sample on filter? I am interested in the possibility of some studies on such samples as a preliminary to more presumptuous investigations. Would you care to discuss the exchange of samples for microbiological analysis? Of course, any positive results in this Pasteurian type of experiment would be highly questionable but they might help to assess the difficulties in planning more ambitious (extra-terrestrial) experiments.

I would meanwhile appreciate the favor of a reprint of your article, and references to your other publications that might be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medical Genetics

JL/em
encl.

P. S. If I understand your figures correctly, the flux is about 50 mg M^{-2} yr^{-1}. Is that right?

Petterson H.