

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

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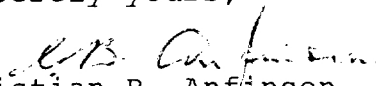
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

27 March 1990

Dear

I would like to join a rather large number of my colleagues in the biosciences in questioning the real value of the human genome project, the extremely expensive proposal that is now beginning to emerge from the National Institutes of Health. The program, even in its early stages, would require more than \$200 million, and I gather that the estimate for a more-or-less complete job would be closer to \$3 billion. There are a number of questions of a scientific nature that make the project of questionable interest. It is well-known that about 95% of the genetic material in the human genome is basically "filler" and a total sequencing of the genome would involve a great deal of wasted time and effort. I do believe that the approach favored by individuals such as Dr. Victor McKusick at Johns Hopkins, aimed at locating and sequencing specific portions of the genome related to human disease, would make a much more sensible beginning.

Sincerely yours,

  
Christian B. Anfinsen  
Professor of Biology

CBA:djh