

HIGH TECH GAYS

P.O.Box 6777 San Jose, California 95150

February 23, 1987

Representative Don Edwards 2307 Rayburn House Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Edwards:

We understand that legislation has been introduced to require the Justice Department to collect data and statistics on crimes prompted by racial, ethnic and religious bigotry. It seems to us that a very important category, that of crimes prompted by intolerance towards sexual orientation, has been omitted.

When this bill comes before your Subcommittee, we strongly urge you to support an amendment to add "sexual orientation" to the bill before reporting it out. Lesbians and gays have been, and continue to be, the target of violence and harassment, and this bigotry must not go unchecked.

Keeping track of these crimes is an important step in their eventual eradication, and those of us who are your constituents look to you to provide leadership in this vital area. Please vote to include us in this legislation.

Very truly yours,

Rick Rudy President

cc: Kevin Berrill, NGLTF Ken Yeager, BAYMEC