



HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
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Professor Martin Weitzman  
Harvard Economics Department

Dear Marty,

How can I explain how much your work has meant to me and to all of economics? It really is not possible to do that in any limited amount of space. You have moved from topic to topic over a long career, each time hitting the highest points and opening up the doors of knowledge with great ideas, usable techniques, new questions, and solid, innovative analysis.

I knew your early work on operations research topics long before we ever met. Then your classic paper, *Prices vs. Quantities*, which anticipated much of the mechanism and market design literature, came out. That was shortly after I got to know you.

"The Optimal Development of Resource Pools" was another landmark piece that simply took my breath away. It was so simple and yet so deep an idea. It seemed impossible that no one had seen it before. But they had not.

In the mid 1970's you started to work on Soviet style planning. When I became chairman of the department in 1984, hiring you away from MIT was one of my highest priorities. At least I did one thing right!

After that you continued with one block-buster idea after another: Growth accounting and welfare measurement, *The Share Economy* (one of my very favorite books in all of economics), and then the two recent floods of exceptional work on the environment and on the implications of fat tail distributions.

I know you will continue to work on these amazing strings of great ideas in the future. The world needs you clarity of thought, your insight and you taste for intellectual challenge. I need you as a friend as well.

We wish you everything good in the coming years. No one is more deserving.

With my fondest regards and admiration,

Jerry R. Green  
John Leverett Professor in the University