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April 22, 1993

JAMES T. BRUCE III
(202) 828-7552

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(202) 429-7049
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Kathleen McGinty
Deputy Assistant to the President
for Environmental Policy
Office of Environmental Policy
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20550

Dear Katie:

As you know from my prior letters, the Agricultural Export Alliance, whom my partner Michael Zacharia and I represent, is intensely interested in the ultimate outcome of the Forest Conference as it relates to agricultural exports. We support the President's position on opposing any ban on private log exports. We expressed that support in the attached ad which ran in *The Washington Post* and *The Oregonian* the day before the Forest Conference began. Also enclosed is the letter we sent the President on this subject and a list of our member groups.

Our members look to the Alliance to represent them on this important issue. The White House press release of April 14, specifically indicates that "Log exports/imports" is an issue for the Administration. Therefore, I would appreciate very much if Michael and I could schedule an appointment to meet with you at your convenience in the next several days. We want to help the President and his Administration on this issue. A short meeting with you would greatly facilitate our efforts.

I can be reached at 828-7552. We look forward to meeting with you.

Best regards,

James T. Bruce

Enclosures
JTB/lsw

COPY

AGRICULTURAL EXPORT ALLIANCE

1776 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
(202) 828-4999
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March 19, 1993

BY HAND

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you and your Administration prepare for the Forest Conference in Portland, Oregon, on April 2, 1993, the Agricultural Export Alliance ("AEA") wants to make clear its strong opposition to any bans, taxes or other restrictions on log exports from private lands. The AEA appreciates and supports your opposition to a ban on private log exports which you stated clearly in Oregon on September 14, 1992.

As you can see from the signatures on this letter, supporters of the AEA include representatives of millions of farmers, ranchers, meat exporters and other members of the agricultural community, as well as tree farmers, ports, unions, and others involved in agricultural trade. All of these groups have joined to fight taxes or embargoes on privately grown agricultural commodities, including logs. We are addressing exclusively exports of logs from <u>private</u> lands -- log exports from public lands (which includes virtually all of the old growth) are already banned.

The AEA has stayed out of the debate over the use and management of public timber lands, and seeks to remain out of that controversy. However, the AEA will aggressively oppose efforts to resolve public timber issues with restrictions on private log exports. A ban on private log exports would eliminate many jobs and would further reduce timber supply by discouraging investment in private forestry. America's farmers must oppose short-sighted policies that jeopardize their markets, further erode their private property rights, and unfairly burden private tree farmers with the costs of policies to preserve public timberlands.

From our perspective, resolution of the public timberlands issues alone is a formidable challenge. Dragging the agricultural community into a bruising fight over private log export restrictions would, unfortunately, make resolution of the public timber issues even more difficult and unlikely. We hope this fight can be avoided.

Past governmental efforts to restrict agricultural exports, such as President Carter's grain embargo and President Nixon's soybean embargo, were public policy failures and disastrous to American farmers. We are not willing to be the victims again of such misguided restrictions.

Export restrictions on American agricultural products, whether directly through bans or indirectly through taxes, undercut the American farmers' image abroad as a reliable supplier. As we have learned from past export restrictions, overseas buyers turn to our trading competitors when they doubt our reliability. If necessary, our customers will also help our competitors develop alternative supplies or will turn to substitute products. Once this happens, it is virtually impossible for American farmers to regain market share lost by the restrictions even after the restrictions are eventually lifted.

Open markets and American agriculture's reputation of reliability have led to a significant positive balance in agricultural trade. We cannot afford government policies that jeopardize our markets, tarnish our reputation of reliability, or otherwise damage our ability to sell privately grown commodities internationally. For these reasons, the Agricultural Export Alliance opposes any proposals to restrict or tax log exports from private property.

We ask for your help in ensuring that tree farmers, and all other farmers, have the ability to sell the commodities they grow on their private property to the buyers of their choice. Please help keep private log exports out of the debate over the management of public timberlands at and after the upcoming forest conference in Portland. We have enclosed a briefing book explaining the reasons why restrictions or taxes on private log exports would be bad public policy.

Please feel free to have your staff contact Michael Zacharia (202) 429-7370 or Sharon Fine (202) 828-4999 if you need any further assistance.

Respectfully,

American Agri Women
American Association of Exporters and Importers
American Association of Port Authorities
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Forest & Paper Association
American Seed Trade Association
American Soybean Association
Citizens for a Sound Economy
Fruit Growers Supply Company
International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union
National Association of Stevedores
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Cattlemen's Association
National Grain Trade Council
National Grange
National Pork Producers Council
National Turkey Federation
National Woodland Owners Association
North American Export Grain Association, Inc.
Northwest Woodland Owners Council
Northwest Horticultural Council
Oregon Commodity Coalition
Oregon Wheat Commission
Pacific Rim Trade Association
Sunkist Growers, Inc.
Washington Agricultural Export Alliance
Washington Citizens For World Trade
Women Involved in Farm Economics

The Agricultural Export Alliance

What Is The Agricultural Export Alliance?

The Agricultural Export Alliance is a Washington, D.C.-based national coalition representing the agricultural community, ports, labor, and others who are dedicated to preserving the unrestricted right to export agricultural commodities.

The AEA was formed in September 1990, after Congress enacted a ban on the export of logs from most public lands in the western United States and in response to a bill proposing a ban on the export of logs from most private lands in the western United States.

Who Supports The Aims Of The AEA?

Supporters include the following:

- American Agri Women
- American Association of Exporters and Importers
- American Association of Port Authorities
- American Farm Bureau Federation
- American Forest & Paper Association
- American Seed Trade Association
- American Soybean Association
- Citizens for a Sound Economy
- Fruit Growers Supply Company
- International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union
- National Association of Stevedores
- National Association of Wheat Growers
- National Cattlemen's Association
- National Grange
- National Pork Producers Council
- National Turkey Federation
- National Woodland Owners Association
- North American Export Grain Association
- Northwest Woodland Owners Council
- Northwest Horticultural Council
- Oregon Commodity Coalition
- Oregon Wheat Commission
- Pacific Rim Trade Association
- Sunkist Growers, Inc.
- Washington Agricultural Export Alliance
- Washington Citizens For World Trade
- Women Involved in Farm Economics

What Will The AEA Be Doing In 1993?

The goal of the AEA for 1993 is to continue to defeat any efforts to ban, restrict, or tax private log exports. The AEA's activities in 1993 will be directed toward expanding the coalition, gathering expressions of opposition to private log export restrictions, and communicating those positions to Congress and the Administration.

How Does The AEA Work?

Organizational representatives meet regularly in Washington, D.C. to share information and devise strategy. The AEA's efforts are coordinated by Michael Zacharia of the Washington, D.C. law firm Wiley, Rein & Fielding on behalf of Washington Citizens for World Trade. The AEA is staffed by Sharon Fine, a former Congressional staffer.

How Can I Find Out More About The AEA?

For more information, or to take part in AEA activities, call Michael Zacharia at (202) 429-7370 or Sharon Fine (202) 828-4999.

3/93

Proposed COLA Cuts Would Hit Military Retirees

COLAS, From A1

the budget committees direct a major change in the retirement system without hearings," said Paul Arcari, director of government relations for the Retired Officers Association.

Under Defense Department promotion policies popularly known as "up or out," Arcari said, the majority of active duty personnel at some point fail to advance to the next grade in a required time period and are forced out of the military—usually while in their forties. "How can you force a guy to retire and say he can't have the full COLA adjustment?" Arcari asked.

Under the plan approved by the House-Senate negotiators yesterday as part of the fiscal 1994 budget resolution, COLAs would be cut in half until the retiree reached 62, at which time he or she would receive a "catch-up."

The proposal would work like this:

In a year when the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 3 percent, a 55-year-old retiree would get a 1.5 percent COLA. If the retiree's pension were $20,000, it would be increased by $300 rather than a full $600.

Because of the effect of annual compounding, between ages 55 and 62 the retiree would effectively lose a total of $9,189.94 in benefits.

At 62, the retiree would receive a catch-up benefit—bringing future pension payments to the level they would have been had there been no COLA reduction. In the case of the 55-year-old, if the CPI rose 3 percent a year, the benefit at age 62 would be raised to $25,335.41 and computation of future COLAs would be based on that amount.

Without the catch-up, this retiree would have received only $22,529.85 at age 62—the equivalent of a 1.5 percent annual COLA compounded over eight years.

Under the plan, in 1994 only, COLAs would be capped at $400 for everyone.

The plan provides for full COLAs for widows, widowers and surviving children, the disabled, and for those employees who face mandatory retirement before 62—for example, firefighters, law enforcement officers and air traffic controllers.

The new plan for COLA cuts was reached by the budget conferees "as part of the overall mix," a House Budget Committee spokesman said. The Senate had not proposed a COLA cut in its budget package.

Charles W. Carter, president of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, said his group would continue to oppose even the less severe COLA cut, adding, "It's definitely starting a precedent that we don't like to see."

George B. Gould, legislative political director for the National Association of Letter Carriers, called yesterday's development "encouraging" but predicted "tougher" days for opponents of the COLA cutback since there seem to be fewer options in discretionary spending categories this year.

TODAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE

HOUSE