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Billy Tauzin

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 16, 1993

The Honorable Billy Tauzin
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tauzin:

On behalf of the President, I would like to thank you for contacting me regarding a "wetlands summit" to debate the issues surrounding wetlands regulation. It was good to hear from you, and I sincerely apologize for the delay in my response.

As you know, President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to the preservation of our natural resources in a way that leads to strong and sustainable economic growth. The President shares your concerns about the uncertainties surrounding wetlands policies of the past.

As you may be aware, an Interagency Working Group on Federal Wetlands Policy was convened on June 4 to review and seek to clarify the issues surrounding federal wetlands policy in anticipation of the reauthorization of the Clean Water Act. It includes representatives of all federal agencies involved in, or impacted by, the protection of wetlands. In addition, the working group will solicit a broad range of views, including those of the Congress; state and local government; environmentalists; developers and homebuilders; agricultural interests; and others. It is possible that the House Committee on Public Works could mark up the Clean Water Act in late July. Therefore, the working group is tentatively scheduled to produce draft policy papers on major wetlands issues for internal review by July 1.

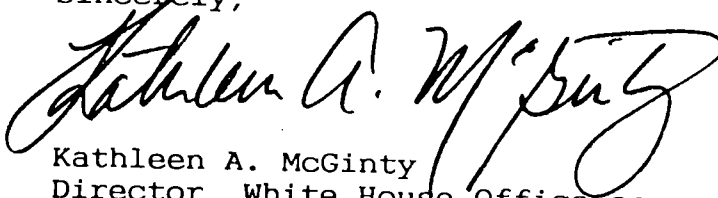
Your office has been invited to participate in following meetings of this Interagency task force:

June 22	2:00 - 5:00	Presenters: Environmentalists
June 29	2:00 - 5:00	Presenters: Senator Breaux
July 1	2:00 - 5:00	Presenters: Others

The meetings will take place in the CEQ conference room at 722 Jackson Place.

I certainly appreciate learning your thoughts in this regard, and I look forward to working with you on this matter in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen A. McGinty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathleen" being more prominent and the last name "McGinty" following in a similar style.

Kathleen A. McGinty
Director, White House Office on
Environmental Policy

KAM/avl

004606

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

February 19, 1993

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Over the last four years the undersigned have followed closely the controversial and frequently changing policies on wetlands proposed by the Bush Administration. We have heard from our constituents that the current wetlands regulatory program has caused them severe hardships and has greatly diminished the value of their property. Our local public officials have described their difficulties in attempting to meet important infrastructure needs and the loss of taxes related to wetlands regulatory requirements.

A number of serious errors have been made in the implementation of this program. Those errors include:

1. Failure to adequately support restoration of existing wetlands through adequate private sector incentives and public funding.
2. Adopting broad wetlands definitions and regulatory procedures without public input and comment.
3. Frequently changing policies and procedures so that it is difficult and in some cases impossible to meet the requirements of the regulatory program.
4. An inflexible and dogmatic approach to the issuance of permits for activities in wetlands.
5. Failure to pay due respect to the Constitutional guarantee that private property shall not be taken without the payment of just compensation.
6. Unduely burdensome, costly, and lengthy permitting procedures with which many low and middle income constituents cannot comply.
7. Failure to meet the basic requirements of due process by allowing appeals of administrative decisions restricting property uses.
8. Failure to consult with local and state governments in making wetlands determinations which impact local economies, particularly in those areas with disproportionate wetland acreages.

We are hopeful that your administration will bring together in a spirit of cooperation all of the diverse interests associated with this issue. We believe that a summit, similar to your economic summit, could debate these

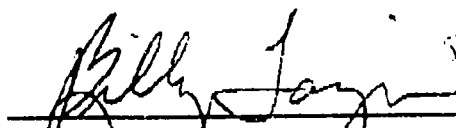
issues and propose sound measures for accomplishing the goals of wetlands protection while respecting the Constitutional rights of property owners.

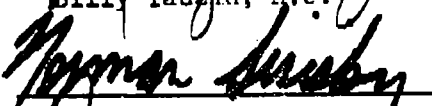
We also urge you to refrain from further rulemaking on this issue pending this wetlands summit to allow your administration to propose a well thoughtout and comprehensive wetlands proposal.

If this issue is not adequately addressed by your administration, the next few years will see a flood of lawsuits seeking compensation for property values taken and will result not only in the loss of public acceptance of this program, but also the loss to the public treasury of many millions of dollars.

As fellow Democrats we wish to work with you to organize and promote a national ongoing dialogue on wetlands. We look forward to working with you to address this important issue.

Best Wishes,


Billy Tauzin, M.C.

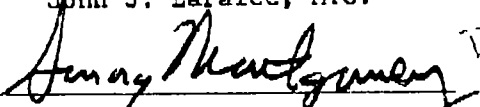

Norman Sisisky, M.C.

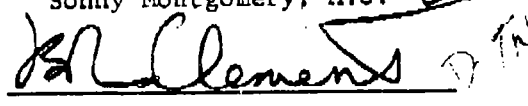

Charles Wilson, M.C.

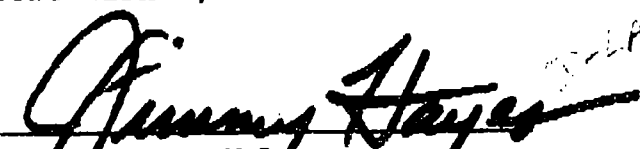

Bill Sarpalins, M.C.


H. Martin Lancaster, M.C.


John J. LaFalce, M.C.

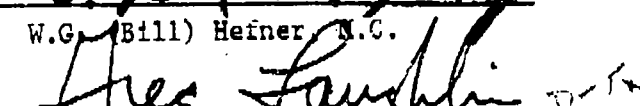

Sonny Montgomery, M.C.

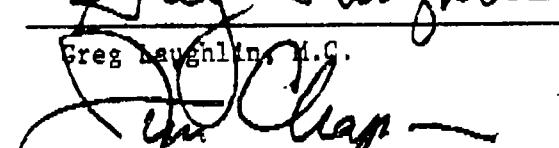

Bob Clement, M.C.


Jimmy Hayes, M.C.

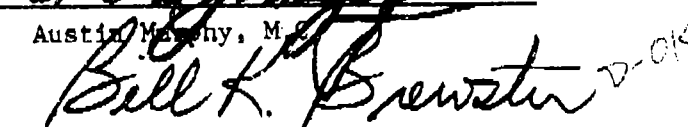

Owen Pickett, M.C.

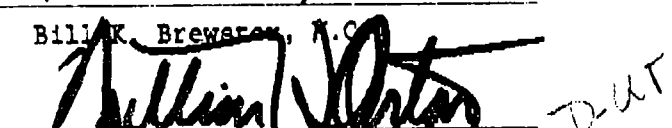

W.G. (Bill) Heiner, M.C.


Greg Laughlin, M.C.


Jim Chapman, M.C.


Austin Mahony, M.C.


Bill K. Brewster, M.C.


William Orton, M.C.

Charles W. Stenholm, M.C.

Ron Klink, M.C.

Mike Parker, M.C.

Solomon P. Ortiz, M.C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

FAX COVER SHEET

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CONFIDENTIAL AND INTENDED FOR THE RECIPIENT ONLY.

DATE: 6.9

TO:

Katie McGinty

FROM:

Melissa Banks

RE:

Approval for this letter
to be sent out

Page 1 of 3

If there are any problems with this transmission, please call
(202) 456-7500.

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6/14*

Honorable Billy Tauzin
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-1321

Dear Mr. Tauzin:

The POTUS has asked me to respond to

~~Thank you for~~ your February 19 letter suggesting a "wetlands summit" to debate issues and assist development of this Administration's policies on protecting and regulating wetlands.

The POTUS

I share your concerns regarding the uncertainties surrounding wetlands policies of the past. This Administration will clearly articulate its position on wetlands protection in the coming months. We are committed to making a genuine effort to meet the goal of "no net loss" of wetlands by fully using the conservation and protection tools already at our disposal. I am ~~not~~ *can be improved* convinced that the current wetlands regulatory program ~~is as seriously flawed~~ *as your letter indicates, and believe that most of these regulations and procedures lack only clear* leadership and adequate funding to make ~~them~~ *it more* effective and responsive to public needs and concerns.

Considerable debate and discussion have already occurred on the issues of wetlands management and protection. The public, industry, State and local governments, Federal agencies, and other interests have all contributed their knowledge and experience in such diverse forums as the National Wetlands Policy Forum, the Bush Administration's Domestic Policy Council's Task Force

Honorable Billy Tauzin

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on Wetlands, various congressional hearings during the last legislative session, as well as the extensive public record on revisions to the Federal wetlands delineation manual proposed in 1991. I believe there is more than enough background available on wetlands regulatory issues to begin to develop sound wetlands policies. A "wetlands summit" is not likely to provide significant new information to guide this process. However, I believe a serious joint effort between this Administration and Congress is needed to resolve wetland issues during the Clean Water Act reauthorization process. For this reason, I am establishing an interagency task force, led by the White House Office of Environmental Policy, to work with Congress on this issue.

Thank you again for your letter and your interest in wetland conservation policy issues. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

*This should be put up first if used as person
Why we don't
want to do a summit
at this time.*