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[Timber Summit - Yew Tree Harvest] [Loose]

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CHIEF WASHAKIE

SHOSHONE & ARAPAHOE TRIBES

BOX 217

FORT WASHAKIE, WYOMING 82514



CHIEF BLACK COAL

March 12, 1993

Mr. Christian Marsh
Office of the President of the United States
Office of Environmental Policy
Old Executive Office Building, Room 358
Washington D.C., 20501

Dear Mr. Marsh:

The Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes, in conjunction with the Sabruer Corporation of Kirkland, Washington, is requesting to have time on the agenda of the upcoming Timber Summit planned on April 2, 1993 in Portland, Oregon.

The subject about which we wish to present testimony concerns the harvest of the Pacific Yew tree (*Taxus brevifolia*) for the cancer treatment medicine, Taxol. Current harvest practices wastes up to 90 percent of the available medical value of the medicinal biomass.

The Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes have a vested interest in saving lives through the production of Taxol, since cancer rates are significantly higher on tribal lands then that experienced in the general population. We are planning to discuss the prospects of Yew tree conservation, which includes growing Yew trees in orchards, coupled with proper sustainable forest management practices for Yew Tree harvest on public lands.

Yew Tree harvest practice which uses the entire tree as a resource has some positive benefits. First, harvesting the entire tree does much less environmental damage. Second, it provides 90 percent more Taxol to fight cancer. Third, it means more jobs in the forest industries.

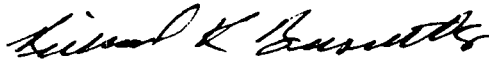
In the 15 minutes we request on the agenda, documentary evidence of the currently wasteful practice is planned to be presented as well as our statements concerning the alternative way to process the Yew Tree biomass.

The Yew Tree Protection Act passed last year provides that before any timber species can be harvested from federal lands, the Yew trees must be taken first. One of the intention of this act is to protect this rare and vitally important species for its anti-cancer properties. The intention of the act has been less than successful. We would like to discuss a solution that provides more jobs, protects the environment to a far greater extent and makes more anti-cancer medicine available.

The Timber Summit provides an excellent opportunity to discuss the wasteful harvest techniques currently employed and to bring attention to the potential loss of human life due to a waste of Taxol, if these practices are allowed to continue.

Please advise if your office can help us get time on the agenda of this most important meeting. Should you have any questions, please contact Alan O'Hashi at 307-332-3060 or Don Aragon at 307-332-3164 of our staff.

Sincerely,



Richard Burnett,
Co-chairman
Eastern Shoshone Tribe



Harvey Spoonhunter,
Chairman
Northern Arapaho Tribe