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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Library Collection
Subgroup/Office of Origin: Council on Environmental Quality
Series/Staff Member: Kathleen (Katie) McGinty
Subseries: [Correspondence]

OA/ID Number: 2254
FolderID:

Folder Title:
[A - October 1993] [Loose]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	61	5	2	2

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 27, 1993

Mr. Jay Aller
160 N.Sierra Bonita #4
Pasadena, CA 91106

Dear Mr. Aller:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding President Clinton's Forest Management Plan. It was good to hear from you.

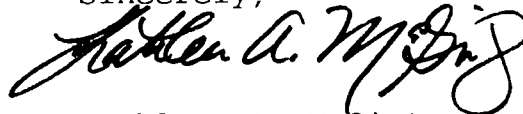
The President, the Vice President and I are committed to the preservation of the environment in a way that leads to strong and sustainable economic growth. We believe that the Forest Conference was a significant step toward the resolution of the problems facing the Pacific Northwest.

As you know, President Clinton recently announced his Forest Plan for a Sustainable Economy and a Sustainable Environment, based on the analytical work of three working groups established at the Forest Conference. This Administration believes that the Forest Plan is scientifically-sound and legally responsible and will provide a sustainable harvest. This plan also includes a new economic assistance program that helps local workers, businesses and communities in strengthening the region's economy by creating family-wage jobs, offering new economic opportunities, and ensuring the region's long-term economic health.

I certainly appreciate learning your views about this very important matter. We continue to seek a Forest Plan that is scientifically-sound and legally responsible and will provide a sustainable harvest, and we are currently soliciting advice and comments on possible improvements to the proposed plan.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen A. McGinty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathleen" and last name "McGinty" clearly legible.

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

KAM/avl

160 N. Sierra Bonita #4
Pasadena, CA 91106
October 9, 1993

Kathleen McGinty
Office of Environmental Policy
Old Executive Office Bldg., Rm. 358
Washington, D.C. 20501

Ms. McGinty:

I am writing about the Siskiyou Forest in southwestern Oregon. With almost 300,000 roadless acres of roadless wilderness, it is the largest and most intact tract of ancient forest in the Western U.S. Unfortunately, it is also unprotected.

I am asking you to work to support legislation that would permanently shelter all Siskiyou National Forest Roadless Areas from logging and development, which might provide a few years' worth of jobs for the timber industry, but would destroy for all time these wild areas and the wealth of life they support.

Please throw your support behind Forest Plan Option 1 of the Spotted Owl Environmental Impact Statement, which would create a truly protected ancient forest reserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jay Aller".

Jay Aller

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 3, 1993

Ms. Dana Arnold
Office of Municipal and
Industrial Waste
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

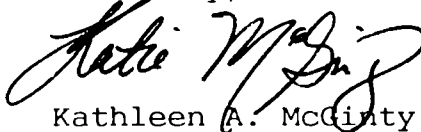
Dear Ms. Arnold:

I would like to thank you for your assistance on the Executive Order on Federal Acquisition, Recycling, and Waste Prevention. President Clinton and I believe that this initiative will achieve the desired results of spurring recycling efforts and promoting a healthy environment, and I know that your efforts were invaluable to our success.

As you know, the Order will reduce solid waste, build markets for recycled products, encourage new technologies and protect the environment. I certainly appreciate all of your hard work that went into the development of this important initiative.

Again, thanks for your dedication to this effort. I look forward to working with you as we move toward implementation.

Sincerely,



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

KAM/avl

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 27, 1993

Mr. Karl N. Arruda
6428 S.W. 35th Avenue
Portland, OR 97221

Dear Mr. Arruda:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding President Clinton's Forest Management Plan. It was good to hear from you.

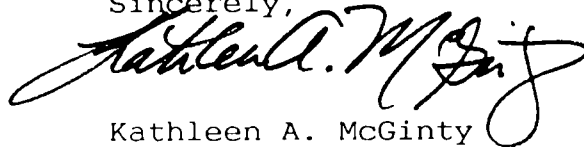
The President, the Vice President and I are committed to the preservation of the environment in a way that leads to strong and sustainable economic growth. We believe that the Forest Conference was a significant step toward the resolution of the problems facing the Pacific Northwest.

As you know, President Clinton recently announced his Forest Plan for a Sustainable Economy and a Sustainable Environment, based on the analytical work of three working groups established at the Forest Conference. This Administration believes that the Forest Plan is scientifically-sound and legally responsible and will provide a sustainable harvest. This plan also includes a new economic assistance program that helps local workers, businesses and communities in strengthening the region's economy by creating family-wage jobs, offering new economic opportunities, and ensuring the region's long-term economic health.

I certainly appreciate learning your views about this very important matter. We continue to seek a Forest Plan that is scientifically-sound and legally responsible and will provide a sustainable harvest, and we are currently soliciting advice and comments on possible improvements to the proposed plan.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen A. McGinty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "M" and "G".

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

KAM/avl

6428 SW 35th Avenue
Portland, OR 97221
October 14, 1993

Kathleen McGinty
Office of Environmental Policy
Old Executive Office Bldg., Room 358
Washington, D.C. 20501

To Ms. McGinty:

I am writing to express my strong concern with President Clinton's Option 9 Forest Plan. I believe it must be improved to ensure survival of the old growth ecosystems.

The idea of allowing logging of any kind in old growth areas is truly bizarre to me. The old growth regions are only fragments of incredibly diverse, balanced, biologically productive ecosystems that can NEVER be replaced. I recently went on a hike to the Opal Creek area (one hour east of Salem, OR) and was awestruck by the immensity of the trees and the beauty of the scenery, and I felt a great humbleness while visiting the area. Logging cannot in any way improve humanity's relationship with such an area. I urge permanent protection of ALL old growth areas.

I also feel the scientific knowledge we can get from old growth areas is an important issue. The discovery of taxol in Pacific Yew trees is a good example of what we can find if we are careful in how we take care of the environment. Any forest plan must provide protection for all parts of the forest ecosystem, not just spotted owls, so that we can not only appreciate the ecosystem, but learn from it.

Also, logging near watersheds for drinking supplies and fish runs must be carefully limited. If Portland's water supply is degraded because of logging, it seems to me that those responsible will have to answer for why this was allowed.

Protection of forests in the western end of Oregon and Washington should not come at the expense of forests in the eastern end. Because of the drier climate, those forests are very vulnerable and sensitive and need protection.

In addition, why is the United States one of the few countries in the world that allows the export of raw logs? It seems to me that many jobs could be created by having U.S. workers create finished wood products and exporting *those* rather than allowing other countries to have their workers do the finish work. Am I missing something, or are we being stupid?

Recently, I have heard of successful sustainable forestry practices in New York and California which allow profitable logging but also allow a forest to continue to exist. I believe a better run Forest Service could do such sustainable forestry if it was willing to try. Clear-cutting damages soil, degrades water quality, and ruins ecosystems. Selective cutting seems like a workable system for non-old growth areas and would allow permanent protection of the old growth areas.

In conclusion, I urge the Administration to reconsider the elements Option 1, which provide strong protection of old growth, sets aside larger reserves than other options, and increases watershed protection. I also urge adoption of east-side forest protection and a raw log export ban.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Karl N. Arruda".

Karl N. Arruda

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 27, 1993

Mr. Dan Anderson
Mr. Neil Shangold
7514 Flower Meadow Drive
San Diego, CA 92126-1044

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding President Clinton's Forest Management Plan. It was good to hear from you.

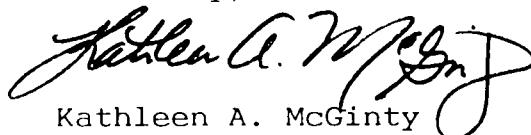
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I certainly appreciate learning your views about this very important matter. We continue to seek a Forest Plan that is scientifically-sound and legally responsible and will provide a sustainable harvest, and we are currently soliciting advice and comments on possible improvements to the proposed plan.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,

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

KAM/avl

Neil Shargold
7514 Flower Meadow Dr.
San Diego, CA 92126-1044

Ms. Katie McGinty
Old Executive Office Bldg Room 360
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Ms. McGinty,

This letter concerns ancient forest. I am most disturbed by the prospects of losing these irreplaceable natural treasures. Besides the devastation that will occur to the forest's inhabitants these are virgin lands of antiquity that I feel should be left for future generations. I would like to see a total ban on all commercial use of all remaining ancient forests.

Sincerely,

Neil Shargold

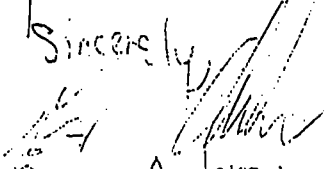
7514 Flower Meadow Dr.
San Diego, CA 92126-1044
5 Oct. 1993

Ms. Katie McGinty
Director, Environmental Policy Office
Room 360, Old Executive Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20501

Ms. McGinty:

I am concerned when I hear about
"sustained yield" of ancient forests. This is
in regard to Clinton's Pacific Northwest logging plan.
Only 10% of ancient forests there are left and
all of it needs to be preserved. Salvage or
thinning programs are not appropriate. They can
also be abused, as the USFS has done before
(e.g., stripping forests around Sequoia Giant Trees
in Sequoia National Forests). All "roadless"
old-growth forests should be included in preserves.
All old-growth in the eastern Cascades should
also be included. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Dan Anderson

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 27, 1993

Mr. Charles A. Adams
4260 Park County Hwy 43
Bailey, CO 80421

Dear Mr. Adams:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding President Clinton's Forest Management Plan. It was good to hear from you.

The President, the Vice President and I are committed to the preservation of the environment in a way that leads to strong and sustainable economic growth. We believe that the Forest Conference was a significant step toward the resolution of the problems facing the Pacific Northwest.

As you know, President Clinton recently announced his Forest Plan for a Sustainable Economy and a Sustainable Environment, based on the analytical work of three working groups established at the Forest Conference. This Administration believes that the Forest Plan is scientifically-sound and legally responsible and will provide a sustainable harvest. This plan also includes a new economic assistance program that helps local workers, businesses and communities in strengthening the region's economy by creating family-wage jobs, offering new economic opportunities, and ensuring the region's long-term economic health.

I certainly appreciate learning your views about this very important matter. We continue to seek a Forest Plan that is scientifically-sound and legally responsible and will provide a sustainable harvest, and we are currently soliciting advice and comments on possible improvements to the proposed plan.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,



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

KAM/avl

September 24, 1993

Ms. Katie McGinty
Director, Office of Envir. Policy
Room #360, the OEEOB
Washington, D.C. 20251

Dear Ms. McGinty:

This letter has to deal with the issue of how the publicly owned forests of this country are cared for.

First let me begin by stating that with the election of the Clinton administration, I was overjoyed. I was also convinced that finally the American people had found someone who would protect, both for present and for future generations of Americans, a priceless natural treasure, the remaining forests of this great country.

Having stated my initial thoughts, I must confess to a great deal of disappointment in recent months. We appear no closer to ending the rampant destruction of our national forests through logging than we were prior to your election.

The forest summit in the northwest was purportedly the mechanism through which sound, scientific and ecologically based management was to finally be implemented on our national forests. Unfortunately, the Clinton administration was pressured into insisting on additional options when the original eight options developed by the group of scientists appointed by you were deemed unacceptable by the timber interests.

It is not yet too late to correct this serious error. Please oppose Option 9 and create another, new option. One that will ban logging and provide permanent protection for all of our remaining native forests nationwide. Let the nation know that sufficiency language, which would limit citizens' appeals, judicial review, and override existing environmental laws will not be tolerated by your administration.

The American people are demonstrating an increasing awareness of the long-standing and continuing abuse of their forests. The time has come to demonstrate to us once and for all that the economic interests (spelled GREED!) of the few does not outweigh the interests of the many, including those generations of Americans as yet unborn.

Thank you for your kind interest in this matter.

Sincerely,


Charles A. Adams
4260 Park County Highway 43
Bailey, CO 80421

printed on Treeless Paper 100% Kenaf fiber

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 27, 1993

Ms. Dana Allison
P.O. Box 281 HC01
Platina, CA 96076

Dear Ms. Allison:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding President Clinton's Forest Management Plan. It was good to hear from you.

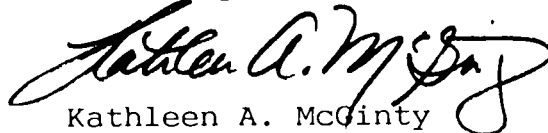
The President, the Vice President and I are committed to the preservation of the environment in a way that leads to strong and sustainable economic growth. We believe that the Forest Conference was a significant step toward the resolution of the problems facing the Pacific Northwest.

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Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,

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

KAM/avl

Dear Mrs. M^r Gentry -

Well, they're still clear cutting on public lands as these photos will indicate. In fact there seems to be a log cutting frenzy at this point from what I've seen and friends have related.

The logging industry always up to some scheme to manipulate the law and public sentiment to their own benefit.

The Yellow Ribbon Coalition an "ultra-right wing organization" has the bulls taking an anti Clinton stance of course. No moderation

as far as they're
concerned.

You're probably aware
of all this information
but thought I'd pass it
along. It's hard to be
one concerned for the
future of people and the
forests in the middle
of wonton destruction

Sincerely,

Nene Aikawa

P.S.

If you need more photos
please keep in touch.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1993

The Honorable Gary L. Ackerman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ackerman:

The President has asked that I respond to your letter of August 5 regarding your concerns about federal wetlands policy and H.R. 350, the Wetlands Reform Act. I apologize for the delay in my response.

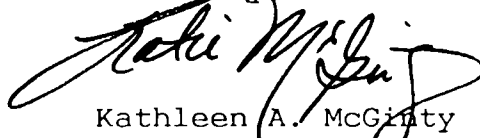
President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to the preservation of our natural resources in a way that leads to strong and sustainable economic growth. This Administration shares your concerns about the uncertainties surrounding wetlands policies of the past.

As you know, 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 included representatives of all federal agencies involved in, or impacted by, the protection of wetlands. In addition, the working group solicited a broad range of views, including those of the Congress; state and local government; environmentalists; developers and homebuilders; agricultural interests; and others. The Administration policy that was announced in August is very consistent with the policies proposed in your letter.

I look forward to working with you to ensure the effective implementation of an ecologically sound wetlands policy during the reauthorization of the Clean Water Act.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen McGinty', written over the typed name.

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

KAM/avl

032356

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515: 00

August 5, 1993

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We understand that you are currently in the process of formulating an official position on federal wetlands policy. We would like to urge you to adopt a position that is closely in line with H.R. 350, the Wetlands Reform Act, currently cosponsored by 80 members of Congress.

We know you are aware of the importance of preserving our wetlands, and commend you for your support of a "no net loss" of wetlands policy. Because Congress is moving closer to acting legislatively on this issue, we feel that your involvement now could have a critical impact on the outcome of this debate and help end the polarization that has developed over this issue.

At a minimum, wetlands policy should accomplish the following: it should stem the loss of 300,000 acres of wetlands annually; it should streamline the permit process; it should improve wetlands regulations so that they are uniformly applied; and it should establish a more incentive-based approach to preserving privately-held wetlands. We believe that H.R. 350 offers reasonable and workable solutions that would achieve these reforms within the framework that currently exists.

To strengthen protections for wetlands, H.R. 350 would amend the Clean Water Act to include explicitly a provision covering the protection of wetlands and expand the number of activities covered under the Act to all that are harmful to wetlands. The careful tracking of the impact of the permit program and mitigation efforts on wetlands would also be required. Finally, it would direct more personnel and resources to agencies that oversee wetlands policy.

To streamline the permit process and make it more workable to private landowners, H.R. 350 would establish a fast track to process minor permits within a period of 60 days. Other helpful provisions would direct the Corps to assist small landowners with wetlands delineations, accelerate the completion of the National Wetlands inventory maps by the Fish and Wildlife Service, and clarify exemptions for normal and ongoing farming practices.

Many of the complaints that the system is unworkable arise from the uneven application of wetlands regulations. We believe this can be remedied through better training of wetlands delineators, and through better coordination of delineation methods.

We also would like to stress the importance of scrutinizing proposals that would seriously erode our wetlands base. We are particularly opposed to calls for a national wetlands classification system. Such a task would be an inefficient use of scarce resources, and according to the Fish and Wildlife Service, it would cost \$18 billion to implement. In addition, ratings would have to be based on very subjective criteria.

We also urge you to resist pressure to broaden the application of the Fifth Amendment takings clause to the limitation of property rights that results from wetlands regulations. Restrictions on the use of wetlands property often serve to protect the health and safety of other nearby properties. To be able to evaluate carefully the unique facts of each case, questions on takings must be left to the courts to be considered on a case by case basis.

The best chance for expanding our wetlands base lies in wetlands restoration efforts. However, it is shortsighted to look to mitigation banking as a solution that would allow wetlands to be destroyed for development projects by creating or contributing to a mitigation bank elsewhere. Studies have shown that efforts to restore or create wetlands have had mixed results, and replacement wetlands are often unsatisfactory because they rarely perform as many or even the same functions as the natural wetlands they replace.

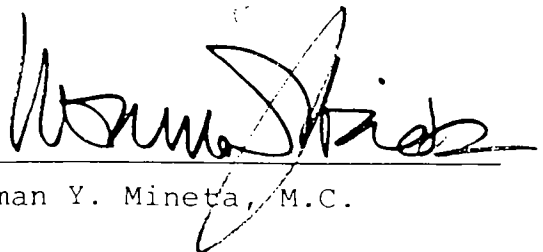
Because 74 percent of the nation's remaining wetlands are privately owned, we must look more toward incentive-based approaches to protecting wetlands. We urge support for the Wetlands Reserve Program, as well as tax incentives that encourage the donation of land to qualified conservation organizations or that promote limiting activities on wetlands to compatible uses.

The need to preserve our wetlands has been made especially clear by the tragic floods now occurring in the Mississippi Valley. Contributing to the severity of the flooding is the fact that 75% - 90% of the wetlands in the region have been lost. In order to resolve the debate over wetlands quickly and fairly, we urge you to adopt the approach outlined in H.R. 350, so that both the economic and environmental benefits of wetlands can be preserved.

Sincerely,



Don Edwards, M.C.



Norman Y. Mineta, M.C.

Edward J. Markey
Edward J. Markey, M.C.

Ronald V. Dellums
Ronald V. Dellums, M.C.

Howard L. Berman
Howard L. Berman, M.C.

George Miller
George Miller, M.C.

Lane Evans
Lane Evans, M.C.

James L. Oberstar
James L. Oberstar, M.C.

Major E. Owens
Major E. Owens, M.C.

George E. Brown, Jr.
George E. Brown, Jr., M.C.

Bruce F. Vento
Bruce F. Vento, M.C.

Anthony C. Beilenson
Anthony C. Beilenson, M.C.

Gary L. Ackerman
Gary L. Ackerman, M.C.

John Conyers, Jr.
John Conyers, Jr., M.C.

Christopher Shays
Christopher Shays, M.C.

Martin T. Meehan
Martin T. Meehan, M.C.

John W. Olver
John W. Olver, M.C.

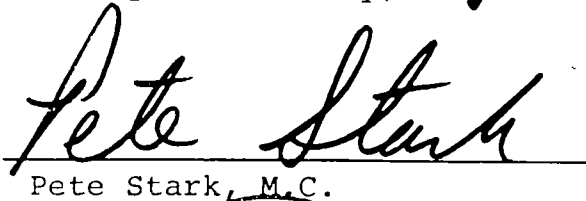
Maurice D. Hinchey
Maurice D. Hinchey, M.C.

Thomas H. Andrews
Thomas H. Andrews, M.C.

Jack Reed
Jack Reed, M.C.

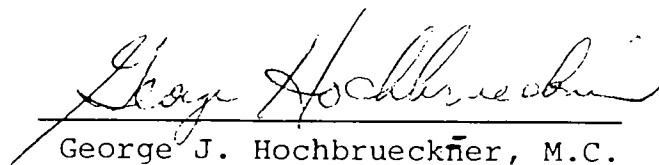

Carolyn B. Maloney, M.C.

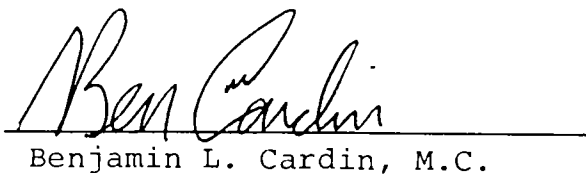

Anna G. Eshoo, M.C.

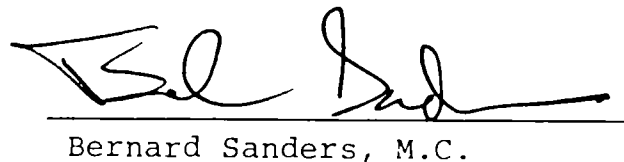

Pete Stark, M.C.

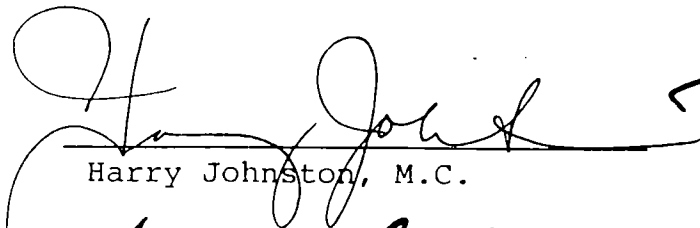

Nancy Pelosi, M.C.

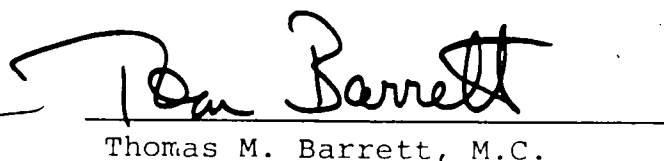

Arthur Ravenel, M.C.


George J. Hochbrueckner, M.C.


Benjamin L. Cardin, M.C.

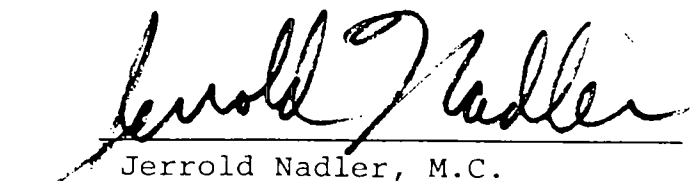

Bernard Sanders, M.C.

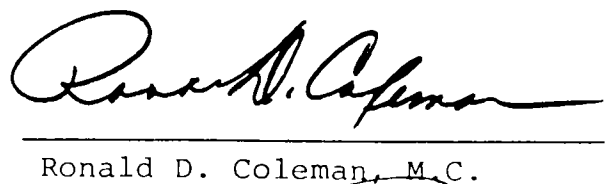

Harry Johnston, M.C.


Thomas M. Barrett, M.C.

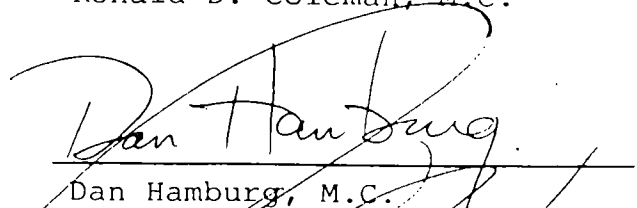

Wayne T. Gilchrest, M.C.

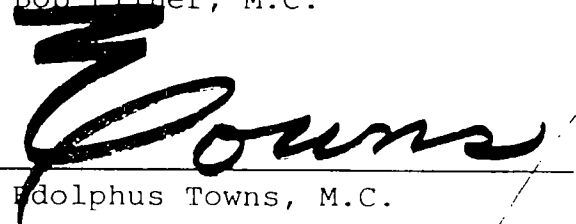

Lynn Schenk, M.C.

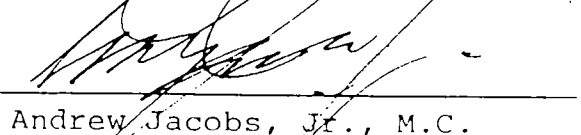

Jerrold Nadler, M.C.


Ronald D. Coleman, M.C.

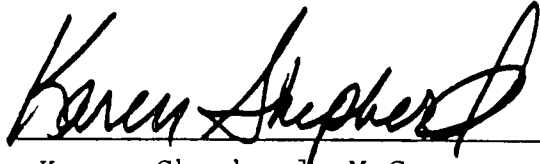

Bob Filner, M.C.

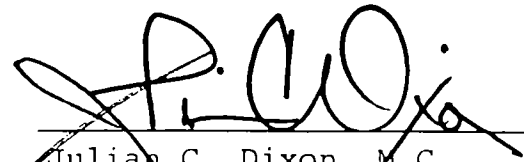

Dan Hamburg, M.C.


Edolphus Towns, M.C.


Andrew Jacobs, Jr., M.C.


Lynn C. Woolsey, M.C.


Karen Shepherd, M.C.


Julian C. Dixon, M.C.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1993

The Honorable Thomas H. Andrews
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Andrews:

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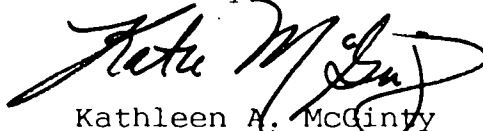
President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to the preservation of our natural resources in a way that leads to strong and sustainable economic growth. This Administration shares your concerns about the uncertainties surrounding wetlands policies of the past.

As you know, 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 included representatives of all federal agencies involved in, or impacted by, the protection of wetlands. In addition, the working group solicited a broad range of views, including those of the Congress; state and local government; environmentalists; developers and homebuilders; agricultural interests; and others. The Administration policy that was announced in August is very consistent with the policies proposed in your letter.

I look forward to working with you to ensure the effective implementation of an ecologically sound wetlands policy during the reauthorization of the Clean Water Act.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen McGinty', written over the typed name.

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

KAM/avl

032356

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515: 00

August 5, 1993

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We understand that you are currently in the process of formulating an official position on federal wetlands policy. We would like to urge you to adopt a position that is closely in line with H.R. 350, the Wetlands Reform Act, currently cosponsored by 80 members of Congress.

We know you are aware of the importance of preserving our wetlands, and commend you for your support of a "no net loss" of wetlands policy. Because Congress is moving closer to acting legislatively on this issue, we feel that your involvement now could have a critical impact on the outcome of this debate and help end the polarization that has developed over this issue.

At a minimum, wetlands policy should accomplish the following: it should stem the loss of 300,000 acres of wetlands annually; it should streamline the permit process; it should improve wetlands regulations so that they are uniformly applied; and it should establish a more incentive-based approach to preserving privately-held wetlands. We believe that H.R. 350 offers reasonable and workable solutions that would achieve these reforms within the framework that currently exists.

To strengthen protections for wetlands, H.R. 350 would amend the Clean Water Act to include explicitly a provision covering the protection of wetlands and expand the number of activities covered under the Act to all that are harmful to wetlands. The careful tracking of the impact of the permit program and mitigation efforts on wetlands would also be required. Finally, it would direct more personnel and resources to agencies that oversee wetlands policy.

To streamline the permit process and make it more workable to private landowners, H.R. 350 would establish a fast track to process minor permits within a period of 60 days. Other helpful provisions would direct the Corps to assist small landowners with wetlands delineations, accelerate the completion of the National Wetlands inventory maps by the Fish and Wildlife Service, and clarify exemptions for normal and ongoing farming practices.

Many of the complaints that the system is unworkable arise from the uneven application of wetlands regulations. We believe this can be remedied through better training of wetlands delineators, and through better coordination of delineation methods.

We also would like to stress the importance of scrutinizing proposals that would seriously erode our wetlands base. We are particularly opposed to calls for a national wetlands classification system. Such a task would be an inefficient use of scarce resources, and according to the Fish and Wildlife Service, it would cost \$18 billion to implement. In addition, ratings would have to be based on very subjective criteria.

We also urge you to resist pressure to broaden the application of the Fifth Amendment takings clause to the limitation of property rights that results from wetlands regulations. Restrictions on the use of wetlands property often serve to protect the health and safety of other nearby properties. To be able to evaluate carefully the unique facts of each case, questions on takings must be left to the courts to be considered on a case by case basis.

The best chance for expanding our wetlands base lies in wetlands restoration efforts. However, it is shortsighted to look to mitigation banking as a solution that would allow wetlands to be destroyed for development projects by creating or contributing to a mitigation bank elsewhere. Studies have shown that efforts to restore or create wetlands have had mixed results, and replacement wetlands are often unsatisfactory because they rarely perform as many or even the same functions as the natural wetlands they replace.

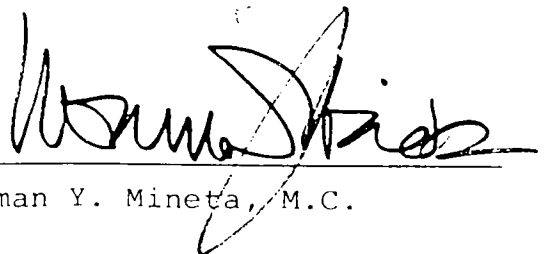
Because 74 percent of the nation's remaining wetlands are privately owned, we must look more toward incentive-based approaches to protecting wetlands. We urge support for the Wetlands Reserve Program, as well as tax incentives that encourage the donation of land to qualified conservation organizations or that promote limiting activities on wetlands to compatible uses.

The need to preserve our wetlands has been made especially clear by the tragic floods now occurring in the Mississippi Valley. Contributing to the severity of the flooding is the fact that 75% - 90% of the wetlands in the region have been lost. In order to resolve the debate over wetlands quickly and fairly, we urge you to adopt the approach outlined in H.R. 350, so that both the economic and environmental benefits of wetlands can be preserved.

Sincerely,



Don Edwards, M.C.



Norman Y. Mineta, M.C.

Edward J. Markey
Edward J. Markey, M.C.

Ronald V. Dellums
Ronald V. Dellums, M.C.

Howard L. Berman
Howard L. Berman, M.C.

George Miller
George Miller, M.C.

Lane Evans
Lane Evans, M.C.

James L. Oberstar
James L. Oberstar, M.C.

Major E. Owens
Major E. Owens, M.C.

George E. Brown, Jr.
George E. Brown, Jr., M.C.

Bruce F. Vento
Bruce F. Vento, M.C.

Anthony C. Beilenson
Anthony C. Beilenson, M.C.

Gary L. Ackerman
Gary L. Ackerman, M.C.

John Conyers, Jr.
John Conyers, Jr., M.C.

Christopher Shays
Christopher Shays, M.C.

Martin T. Meehan
Martin T. Meehan, M.C.

John W. Olver
John W. Olver, M.C.

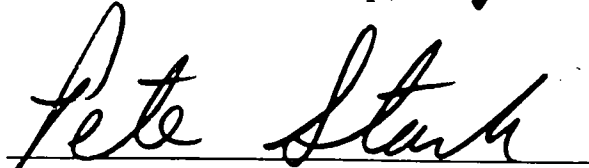
Maurice D. Hinchey
Maurice D. Hinchey, M.C.

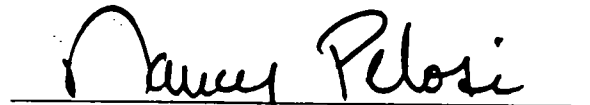
Thomas H. Andrews
Thomas H. Andrews, M.C.

Jack Reed
Jack Reed, M.C.

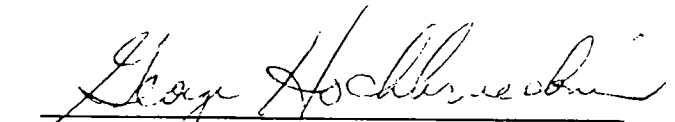

Carolyn B. Maloney, M.C.


Anna G. Eshoo, M.C.


Pete Stark, M.C.

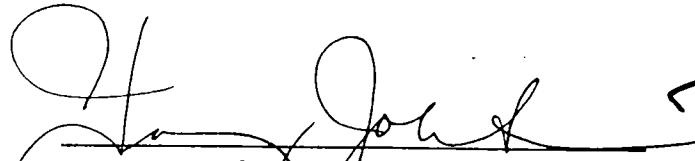

Nancy Pelosi, M.C.

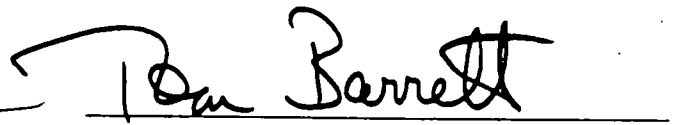

Arthur Ravenel, M.C.

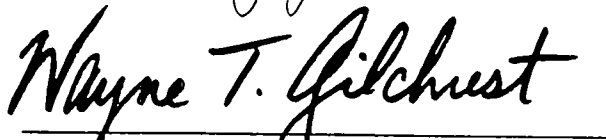

George J. Hochbrueckner, M.C.

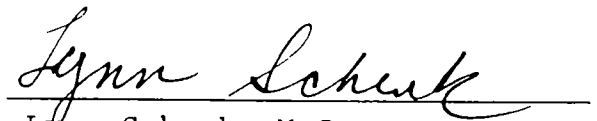

Benjamin L. Cardin, M.C.

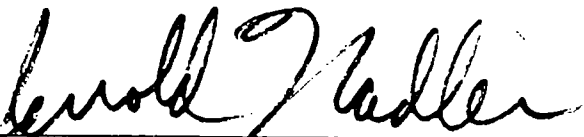

Bernard Sanders, M.C.


Harry Johnston, M.C.


Thomas M. Barrett, M.C.

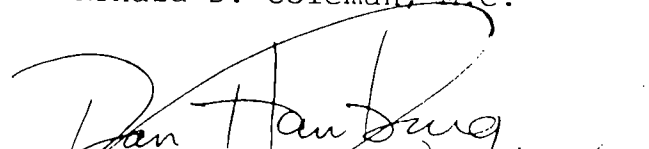

Wayne T. Gilchrest, M.C.

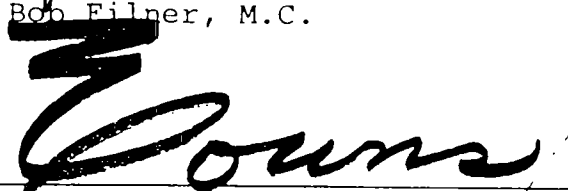

Lynn Schenk, M.C.

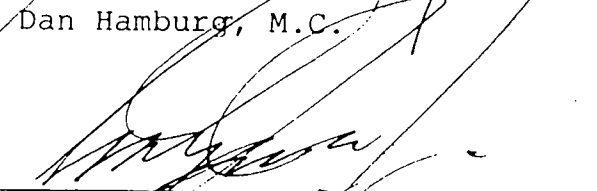

Jerrold Nadler, M.C.

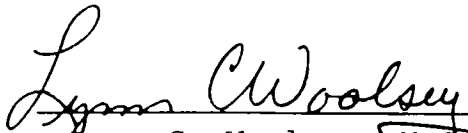

Ronald D. Coleman, M.C.

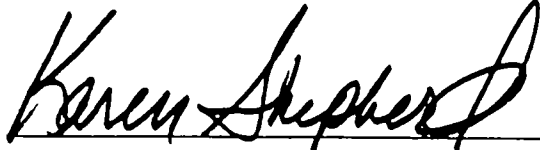

Bob Filner, M.C.

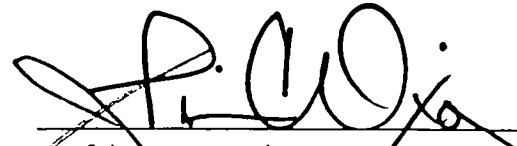

Dan Hamburg, M.C.


Edolphus Towns, M.C.


Andrew Jacobs, Jr., M.C.


Lynn C. Woolsey, M.C.


Karen Shepherd, M.C.


Julian C. Dixon, M.C.