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Series/Staff Member: Kathleen (Katie) McGinty
Subseries: [Correspondence]

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[F - October 1993] [Loose]

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 27, 1993

Ms. Nancy Franklin
533 Orchard Drive
Madison, WI 53711

Dear Ms. Franklin:

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

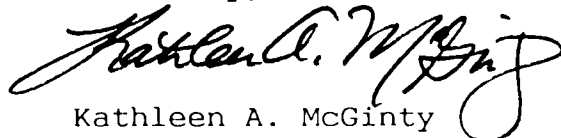
The President, the Vice President and I are committed to the preservation of the environment in a way that leads to strong and sustainable economic growth. We believe that the Forest Conference was a significant step toward the resolution of the problems facing the Pacific Northwest.

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

533 Orchard Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53711
October 28, 1993
12

Ms. Katie McGinty, Director
Office of Environmental Policy
Room 360, Old Executive Office Building
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Ms. McGinty,

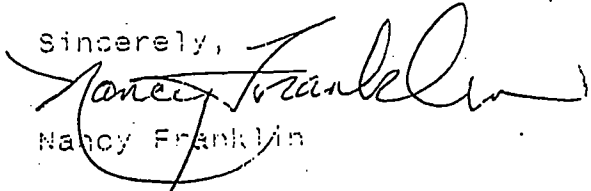
I am writing concerning the Ancient Forest Plan (Reg. Guide to U.S. Forest Service, Draft Environmental Impact Statement). I am unhappy to learn that selective logging and salvage logging are being considered for the reserve areas. There should be a substantial wilderness area in which no removal is permitted and in which no road building is allowed.

Additional millions of acres should be designated as low impact forestry areas in which selective harvests can be made. There should be buffer zone protection for watersheds to protect fish and streams, and an acknowledgement that there are many plant and animal species to be managed for in this region in addition to the spotted owl.

I am concerned about the economic viability of the region, but if the only way to keep logging companies in business is to sell them logs at below cost (federal subsidy) and subsidize their logging of the last 10% of ancient forests that remain, then I think it is time to stop the subsidies and acknowledge that they are destroying the last of a nonrenewable resource.

The region is going to have to diversify, and while that is happening in the higher population centers, the smaller towns need more federal guidance and support for this process. I am sure that at the local level in these towns, elected officials who aggressively seek new solutions or compromises don't stay in office very long. Residents may resent us outsiders butting in, but those are my trees, too.

Sincerely,


Nancy Franklin

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 27, 1993

Ms. Shiela R. Furlong
2225 Overview Drive, N.E.
Tacoma, WA 98422

Dear Ms. Furlong:

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

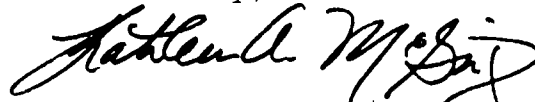
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I certainly appreciate learning your views about this very important matter. We continue to seek a Forest Plan that is scientifically-sound and legally responsible and will provide a sustainable harvest, and we are currently soliciting advice and comments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

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,



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

KAM/avl

9-27-93

Ms. McGinty,

I believe it is imperative that the plan for our ancient forests be amended to include protection for the eastside of Washington state, in the Okanogan area. This is a beautiful place, with tremendous numbers of wildlife, that we on the west side of the Cascades, no longer see with any frequency. Because it is less visited by huge numbers of people, doesn't mean we should allow clearcutting and the resulting destruction of the environment that

goes along with it. It's time
we followed thru with our
commitments as well — no thinning
or salvaging in old growth
reserves.

I'm another voice saying,
as so many have:

"Manage our forests for
the people who own it,
not for profit, for a few
timber corporations!"

Thank you, Sincerely,
Sheila R. Furlong
SHEILA R. FURLONG,

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 27, 1993

Mrs. Gerald Fartner
613 Rosetta
Florissant, MO 63031

Dear Mrs. Fartner:

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

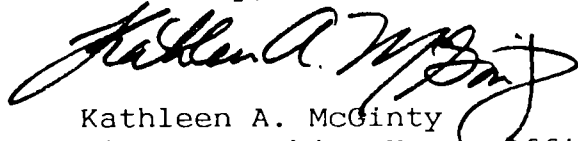
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Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,



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

KAM/avl

6/20/93

Dear Mr. Llesman,

I urge the Clinton administration to protect the Ancient Forests. Recall promises made in campaigns & at the forest conference. Stand firm in the face of ~~current~~ pressure from the timber industry. Do not restrict the laws or deny citizen access to the courts. Do not allow the "new forestry" techniques to ruin a fragile, irreplaceable old-growth ecosystem.

Yours very truly,
Mrs. Leonard Farber

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 27, 1993

Ms. Laura J. Funk
38 E. Hendrickson
Mellville, PA 19067

Dear Ms. Funk:

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

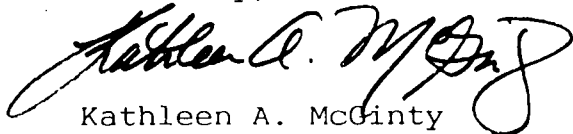
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Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,



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

KAM/avl

10-11-93

Dear Ms. McGinty,

This note regards Pres.
Clinton's Ancient Forests
Plan. The Plan should:

- est. a real + permanent
ancient forest system, with no
salvage logging or thinning
- set a sustainable level of logging
- set high viability stds for the
ecosystem + salmon
- include the Eastside forests
+ the Sierra Nevada
- eliminate new log exports.

Thank you,

Laura Frank
388 Hendrickson
M.ville, PA 19067

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 27, 1993

Mr. Ian K. Fowler
1125 West Farwell, 2E
Chicago, IL 60626

Dear Mr. Fowler:

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

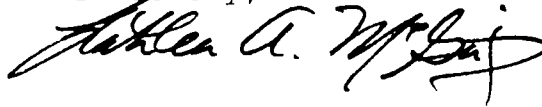
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Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,



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

KAM/avl



1125 West Farwell, 2E, Chicago IL. 60626 (312)435-4033

9-23-93

Ms. Katie McGinty
Director, Office of Environmental Policy
Room 360, the OEOP
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Ms. McGinty,

I write to you in regard to the "Option 9" plan currently being proposed for our National Forest management. The plan has many shortcomings, not the least of which are that:

- Option 9 does not figure into its allowable cut limits either "thinning" or "salvage" logging. These contribute significantly to deforestation, and should obviously be added into the total forest reduction figures.
- The plan continues to support arson logging, a Forest Service practice that allows the harvest of trees in burned areas. Fires are sometimes started by those wishing a timber windfall. Such parties should not be allowed to profit from the destruction of public lands through the continuation of this policy.
- Option 9 establishes "reserves" of forest that are determined to be in critical watershed areas. This sounds good until one learns that even these reserves are not off-limits to logging. How are we to protect our valuable topsoil and fish in such sensitive and allegedly valuable areas if roadbuilding and logging are allowed? Studies have shown that wherever road access is provided, land quality slides (literally) downhill.

What are we to make of Option 9, when it is a plan so full of holes? I strongly urge you to ask that implementation of the plan be delayed, and to work instead toward a plan which addresses these and other concerns. Any less would do injustice to the heritage of our beautiful and inherently valuable public lands.

Sincerely, Ian K. Fowler

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 27, 1993

Ms. Sarah P. Faulconer
102 Thompson Street
Strasburg, VA 22657

Dear Ms. Faulconer:

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

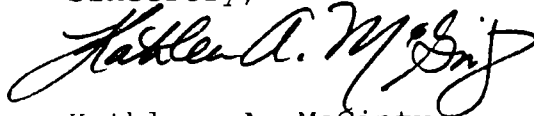
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Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,

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

KAM/avl

102 Thompson Street
Strasburg, Virginia 22657
October 6, 1993

The Clinton Administration
c/o Kathleen McGinty, Director
Office of Environmental Policy
Room 350, Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20501

Dear Ms. McGinty:

Enclosed is copy of letter to Mr. James Lyons of the USDA. I have also written the Interagency SEIS Team in Portland, Oregon.

These letters pertain to the Clinton Forest Plan. While there is much in the plan which is desirable, it does not go far enough to protect our ancient forest system. There is more involved here than the spotted owl. Ancient forests are special. They are habitats of choice and rare plant and animal species which cannot survive anywhere but in such ecosystems.

As you will note in the copy enclosed, the Plan needs to establish a permanent ancient forest reserve system and no salvage logging nor thinning should be permitted in the reserves.

Excessive logging outside reserves should be prohibited in order to protect near-stream areas which are important for clean water and fish. Adaptive management areas should be eliminated. Without a doubt, timber interests will be those who conduct the experiments and the same clearcutting and forest degradation will continue.

The ancient forest reserve system should include forests on the east of the Cascades and logging in these forests should be restricted.

I hope the administration will strengthen the Plan. I will follow with interest what is being done. Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,



Sarah P. FAulconer

F/f
Enclosure

102 Thompson Street
Strasburg, Virginia 22657
September 27, 1993

Mr. James Lyong
Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment
USDA
Room 2173, North Building
Washington, D. C. 20250

Dear Mr. Lyons:

Re: Clinton Forest Plan

The Clinton Forest Plan has much in it to be commended. The attempt to put ancient forests and logging communities on a sustainable basis, the \$1.2 billion economic restructuring package to assist workers and communities in making a transition to a more diverse economy, and the removal of the tax subsidies which encourage exports of raw logs, are all very positive aspects of the Plan.

However, the plan needs to establish a real and permanent ancient forest reserve system, with no salvage logging or thinning. Salvage in reserves should be prohibited. I am familiar with "salvaging" in our George Washington National Forest. It means clearcutting which removes everything, leaving nothing for wildlife.

Excessive logging outside reserves should be prohibited. Near-stream areas which are important for clean water and fish will be degraded. High viability standards should be set for salmon and for the whole ecosystem. Ecosystems can't be preserved in a piece-meal fashion.

"Adaptive management areas" should be eliminated. What will happen if communities are allowed to decide how to manage national forests is that, without a doubt, local timber interests will be conducting the "experiments" and there will be the same clearcutting and forest destruction.

Forests on the east side of the Cascades are part of the whole ancient forest ecosystem and have been subjected for years to logging abuses. They should be ⁱⁿ a permanent ancient forest reserve system and logging in these forests should be restricted.

We must save the remaining ancient forest systems. Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,


Sarah P. Faulconer

F/f

Copies to:

Senator Charles Robb
Senator John Warner
Kathleen McGinty

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 27, 1993

Ms. Joan K. Fowler
1128 Tenth Street Southwest
Rochester, MN 55902

Dear Ms. Fowler:

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

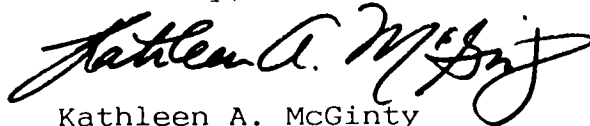
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Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

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

KAM/avl

1128 Tenth Street Southwest
Rochester, Minnesota 55902

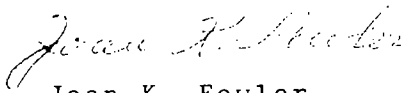
October 5, 1993

Clinton Administration
c/o Kathleen McGinty, Director
Office of Environmental Policy
Room 350, Old Executive Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C.
20251

Dear Kathleen McGinty

Enclosed is a copy of my letter to James
Lyons with comments on the President's
proposed plan for ancient forests of the
Pacific Northwest. His plan makes a good
start, but I hope the revision will
strengthen the plan by closing some of
the loopholes and extending the protection.

Sincerely,


Joan K. Fowler

enc. 1

1128 Tenth Street Southwest
Rochester, Minnesota 55902

October 5, 1993

James Lyons,
Asst. Sec. for Natural Resources and Environment, USDA
Room 2173, North Building
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Lyons:

I was glad to note several positive points in
the President's proposed plan for ancient forests
of the Pacific Northwest:

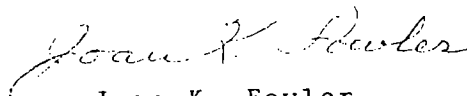
- elimination of tax loopholes that
encourage export of raw logs
- economic assistance to communities
dependent on timber

However it is essential that a plan include:

- a permanent ancient forest reserve
system without any salvage logging
or thinning
- a limit on logging which is at a
sustainable level
- high viability standards for the
ecosystem so salmon would be protected

I hope these points can be included in your
revision of the President's plan.

Sincerely,


Joan K. Fowler

copy to Kathleen McGinty,
Director, Office of Environmental Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 27, 1993

Ms. Carol Farwell
2242 Lincoln Park W.
Chicago, IL 60614

Dear Ms. Farwell:

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,



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

KAM/avl

SAVE OUR SISKIYOU

Kathleen McGinty
Office of Environmental Policy
Old Executive Office Bldg. - Rm 358
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Kathleen McGinty

The endangered Siskiyou Forest in southwestern Oregon desperately needs your help. This is the largest, most intact Ancient Forest ecosystem on the West Coast, with almost 300,000 acres of unprotected roadless wildlands. It is a global treasure, a genetic Noah's Ark containing the most diverse coniferous forest in the world. Scientists have recognized this region as one of the biologically most valuable areas in all of North America. Please do not allow these irreplaceable wild areas - so important as habitat for owls, salmon and scores of rare plants - to be sacrificed for a few more years of jobs and profits for the timber industry.

Please permanently withdraw all Siskiyou National Forest Roadless Areas from logging and development. Please support Forest Plan Option 1, which would create a true Ancient Forest Reserve System, protected from all logging. Also, please make no exceptions to existing environmental laws, and stop all raw log exports.

Sincerely,

Carol Farwell

Name Mr. Robt. Farwell
Address 2342 Lincoln Pl W
City, State, Zip Chicago, IL 60614

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 27, 1993

Ms. Kathy Finlay
608 Kiefer Creek Road
Ballwin, MO 63021

Dear Ms. Finaly:

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

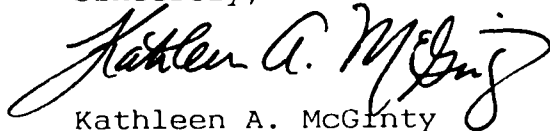
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Kathleen A. McGinty
Director, White House Office on
Environmental Policy

KAM/avl

Kathy Finlay
608 Kiefer Creek Rd
Ballwin MO
63021

Kathleen Mc Ginty
Office of Environmental Policy
Old Executive Office Building Rm 350
Washington DC 20501

Dear Ms. Mc Ginty,

This letter is to let you know
that I am opposed to all logging
and development in all the
roadless areas of the Siskiyou
National Forest. Please support
the creation of an Ancient Forest
Reserve System, enforce our
environmental laws and provide
transitional assistance and
~~re~~forest restoration projects
for displace timber workers.

Kathy Finlay

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 27, 1993

Mr. Adam Fox, M.D.
1905 Sheridan Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55116

Dear Dr. Fox:

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

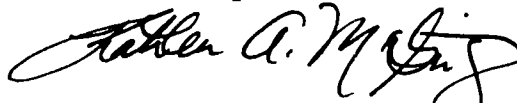
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Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,



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

KAM/avl

Forests

Sep 6, 1993

Ms Katie McGinley:

I took a most memorable vacation last summer driving from National Park to National Park. In between I drove through + on occasion hiked through some of the most beautiful National Forests in the Pacific Northwest. To cut down these ancient forests is a crime. To destroy their splendor is worse than any graffiti.

How could the Clinton Administration back Option #9 set forth by politicians and the timber industry? Haven't the timber industry and politicians had their way long enough at the expense of the rest of us? The National Forests are for all of us people. Economics of the Pacific Northwest can be revamped in ways far more constructive than the destruction of Nature herself.

Any plan should protect ALL the remaining 100% of America's ancient forests and the species that depend on them. There should be no logging in ancient forests reserves period! Dead + decaying trees are part of the natural habitat and necessary for forest livelihood and should be left alone.

There should be protection for roadless areas which should be completely off limits to chain saws, even outside the reserves. There also must be full protection for fisheries / fish habitat both inside + outside the reserves. Full streamside buffer zones are essential to ↓ the environmental risks of flooding + degrading water quality. Changing the environment locally will force current species to have to adapt too quickly + they will become extinct - especially salmon. There should be minimal environmental forestry. Those proposed/current experimental areas should be converted to ancient forest reserves. Local residents should not be given special authority over forests in their area as National Forests by definition belong to ALL Americans + should be managed in the best interest of all Americans. There must be protection for all species associated with ancient forests. These forests are complex ecosystems and all require adequate protection.

It would be a shame + quite unacceptable to destroy the natural beauty of the remaining ancient trophies. Please fight for them. Their only natural defense from the chain saw (ie politicians + timber industry) must be you!

ADPMD

Adam Fox MD

1105 Sheridan Ave

Seattle WA 98116

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1993

The Honorable Bob Filner
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Filner:

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.

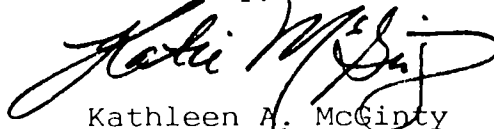
President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to the preservation of our natural resources in a way that leads to strong and sustainable economic growth. This Administration shares your concerns about the uncertainties surrounding wetlands policies of the past.

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 a horizontal line.

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.

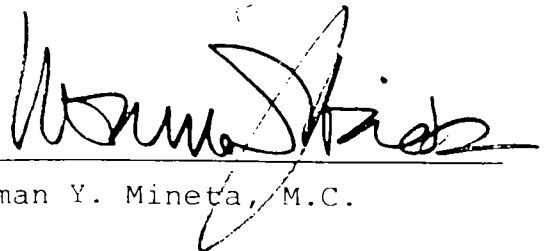
Because 74 percent of the nation's remaining wetlands are privately owned, we must look more toward incentive-based approaches to protecting wetlands. We urge support for the Wetlands Reserve Program, as well as tax incentives that encourage the donation of land to qualified conservation organizations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

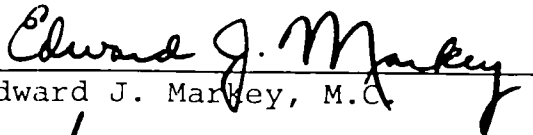
Sincerely,



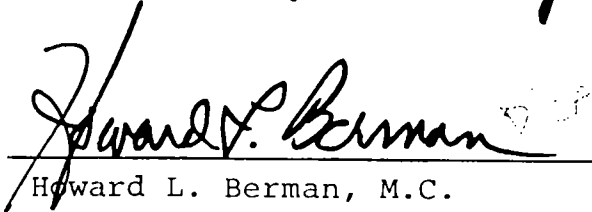
Don Edwards, M.C.

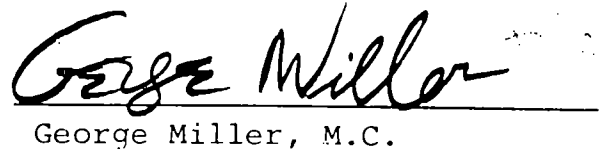


Norman Y. Mineta, M.C.


Edward J. Markey, M.C.


Ronald V. Dellums, M.C.

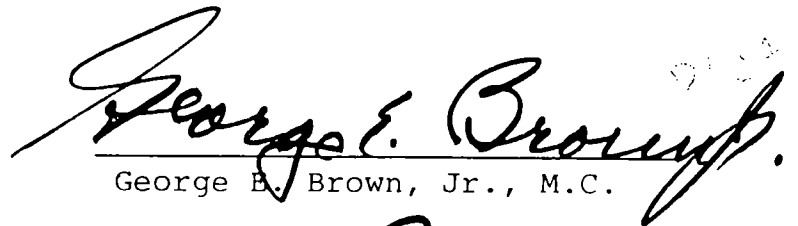

Howard L. Berman, M.C.


George Miller, M.C.


Lane Evans, M.C.

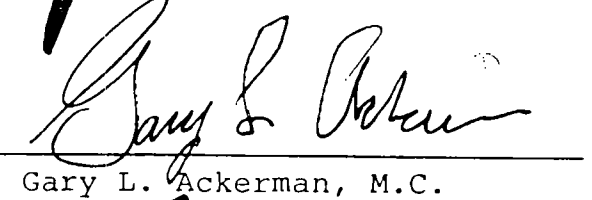

James L. Oberstar, M.C.

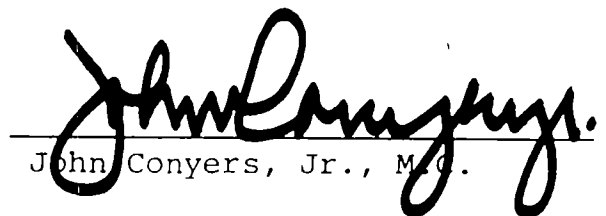

Major E. Owens, M.C.

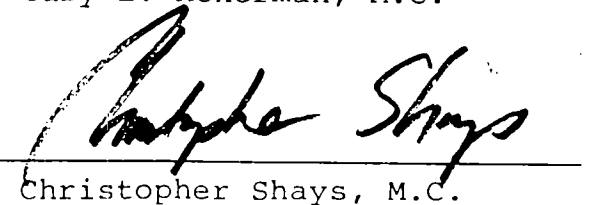

George E. Brown, Jr., M.C.


Bruce F. Vento, M.C.

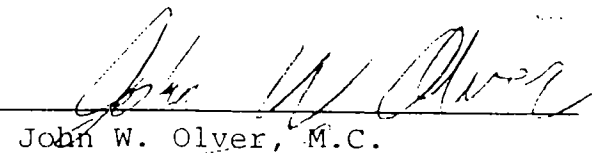

Anthony C. Beilenson, M.C.

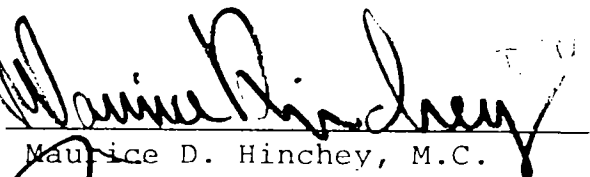

Gary L. Ackerman, M.C.

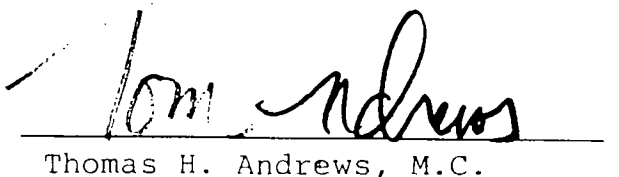

John Conyers, Jr., M.C.

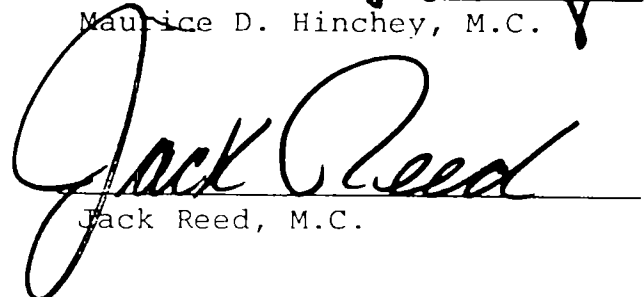

Christopher Shays, M.C.

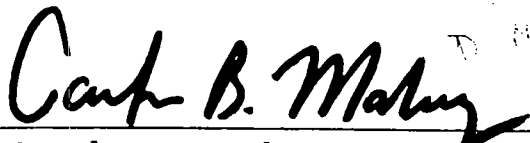

Martin T. Meehan, M.C.

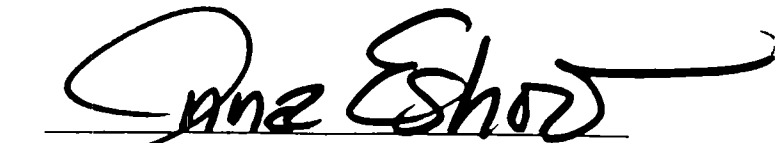

John W. Olver, M.C.

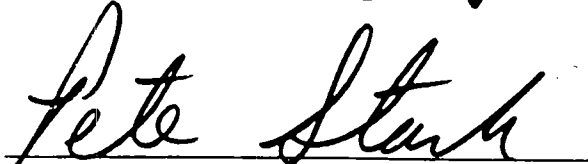

Maurice D. Hinchey, M.C.

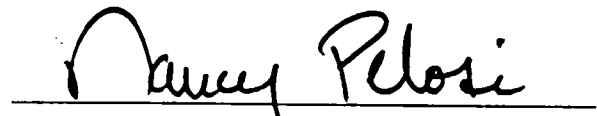

Thomas H. Andrews, M.C.


Jack Reed, M.C.

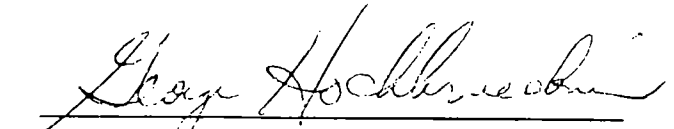

Carolyn B. Maloney, M.C.

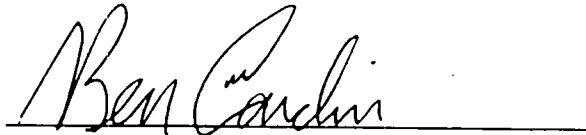

Anna G. Eshoo, M.C.

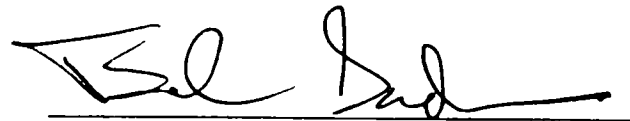

Pete Stark, M.C.

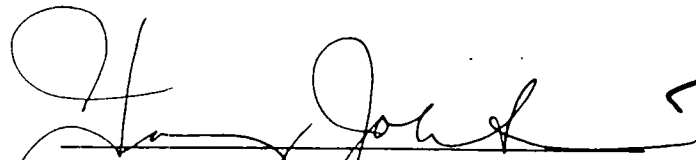

Nancy Pelosi, M.C.

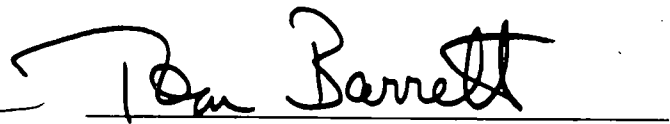

Arthur Ravenel, M.C.

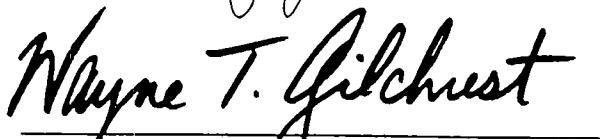

George J. Hochbrueckner, M.C.

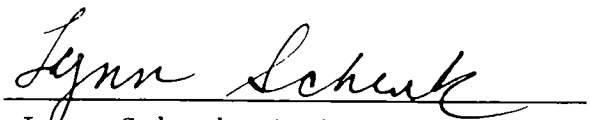

Benjamin L. Cardin, M.C.

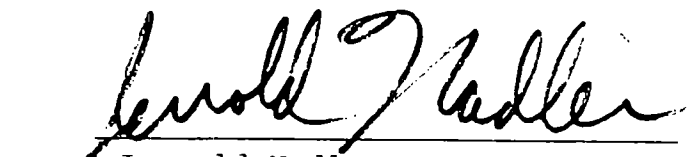

Bernard Sanders, M.C.


Harry Johnston, M.C.

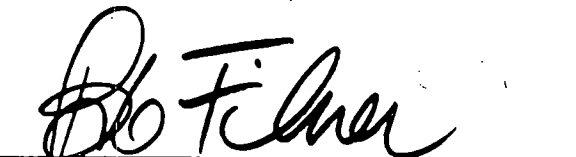

Thomas M. Barrett, M.C.

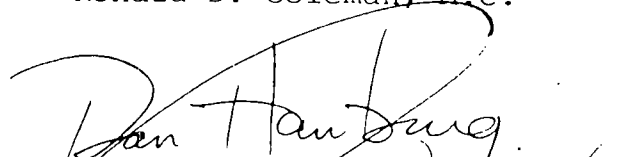

Wayne T. Gilchrest, M.C.

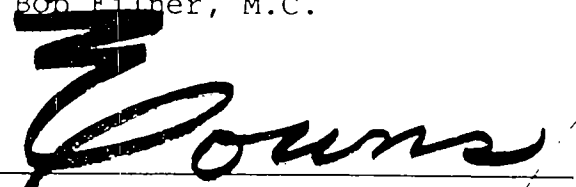

Lynn Schenk, M.C.


Jerrold Nadler, M.C.


Ronald D. Coleman, M.C.

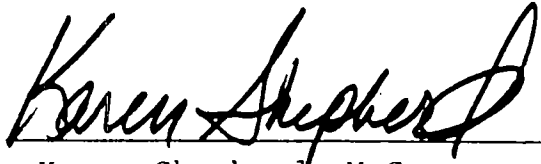

Bob Filner, M.C.

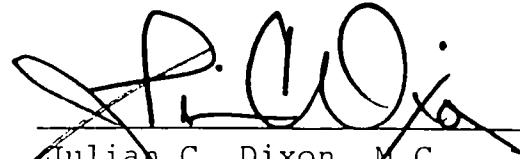

Dan Hamburg, M.C.


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 22, 1993

The Honorable Vic Fazio
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Fazio:

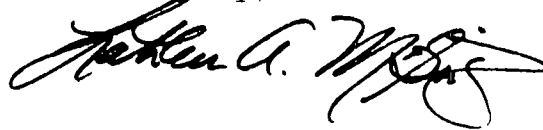
The President has asked that I respond to your letter of August 4 regarding the implementation of laws affecting the allocation of water in California. It was good to hear from you, and I sincerely apologize for the delay in my response.

As you know, I share President Clinton's commitment to the preservation of our environment in a way that leads to strong and sustainable economic growth. Last spring, I contacted Governor Pete Wilson regarding the protection of Bay-Delta water quality. I wish to reaffirm this Administration's commitment to coordinated management of water resources in California in a manner which serves the interests of all the state's residents.

Coordination of the activities of the Federal agencies is, as you rightly point out, of great importance to the overall success of the effort, and we are making significant and unprecedented progress on that front. Very close integration of the Federal efforts with state responsibilities is also vital, and we are continuing to work with the regional agency representatives to ensure that they are working closely with the relevant state agencies and all affected parties.

Once again, thank you for your letter on this important matter, and I would welcome any additional assistance you could provide as we proceed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen A. McGinty", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

KAM/avl

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515 P4: 59

August 4, 1993

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

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to urge you to take immediate steps to ensure that federal agencies responsible for implementing laws affecting the allocation of water in California act in a coordinated manner to protect both the state's economy and its environment.

No fewer than four federal agencies now exercise control over the water supplies for 19 million Californians and nearly 5 million acres of farmland. Each of these agencies, acting separately under the authority of a variety of federal laws, is preparing a long-term plan for the protection of fish, wildlife and water quality in California's Bay-Delta Estuary and the Central Valley.

Individually and collectively, these federal actions have the potential to have significant adverse impacts on California's struggling economy. We recognize that effective protection and restoration of the environment sometimes produce adverse economic consequences that simply cannot be avoided. However, we are greatly concerned that the economic impacts of federal actions in the Bay-Delta are being exacerbated by a lack of high-level coordination among the agencies involved.

Interim actions by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to protect endangered species in the Bay-Delta have already resulted in severe reductions in water supplies in the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys. Further reductions of agricultural and urban supplies may also occur with full implementation of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act by the USFWS and the Bureau of Reclamation. In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency will in the near future establish water quality standards for the Bay-Delta that will almost certainly disrupt water supplies for agricultural and urban users throughout the state.

Although there is some cooperation among the responsible federal agencies at the regional level, some of them continue to act separately and seemingly without regard for the cumulative effects of their individual decisions on the environment or the economy.

The President
August 4, 1993
Page 2

Consequently, small agricultural communities and large cities such as Los Angeles are facing a series of separate, overlapping federal mandates whose timing, scope and impacts are unclear. The resulting uncertainty has undermined agricultural and urban planning, financing and development.

We were pleased that your Administration has recognized this problem and its possible solution. On May 27, 1993, Kathleen McGinty, Director of the White House Office on Environmental Policy, wrote to Governor Pete Wilson to assure him of your Administration's commitment to coordinated management of California's water resources under a policy that seeks to "protect the health of the Bay-Delta environment and achieve reliable supplies for water users."

However, that commitment to a coordinated effort to balance competing demands is not always reflected in actions of agency personnel at the regional level, who at this point appear to be largely responsible for the development and implementation of federal water policy in California.

Decisions affecting millions of Californians should not be left entirely in the hands of a few federal technicians pursuing the sometimes narrow goals of their separate agencies. Rather, federal agencies involved in the Bay-Delta must act in a coordinated, unified manner under the guidance of a comprehensive policy aimed at fully complying with environmental protection laws while minimizing adverse economic impacts.

We urge you to appoint a cabinet-level task force to direct and coordinate all federal activities in the Bay-Delta and to ensure that those activities reflect the Administration's commitment to solve environmental problems while assuring a reliable supply of water for California's agricultural and urban users.

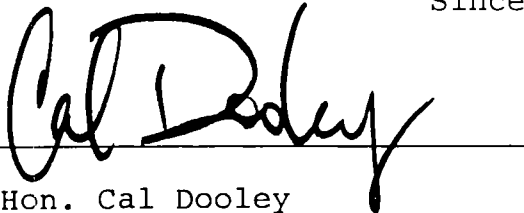
It is our strong belief that such an inter-agency effort should be led by the Secretary of the Interior. Secretary Babbitt demonstrated an ability to resolve highly complex water resource conflicts while he was Governor of Arizona, and he is respected by California environmentalists and water users alike. He would provide exactly the type of strong and innovative leadership that is required to resolve the daunting water allocation issues we face in California.

The State of California also must accept responsibility for addressing its water problems. The burden cannot be the federal government's alone. But it is your Administration that now has the opportunity to provide the leadership and direction necessary

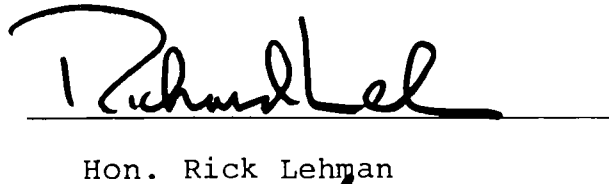
The President
August 4, 1993
Page 3

to resolve water conflicts that have divided Californians for a generation. It is an opportunity that none of us can afford to miss.

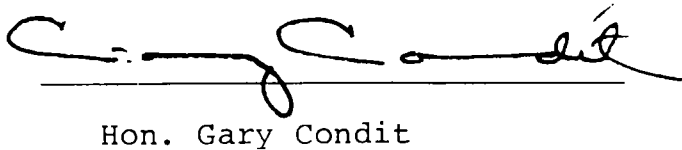
Sincerely,



Hon. Cal Dooley



Hon. Rick Lehman



Hon. Gary Condit



Hon. Vic Fazio

cc: Hon. Bruce Babbitt, Secretary, Department of the Interior
Hon. Ronald Brown, Secretary, Department of Commerce
Ms. Carol Browner, Administrator, Environmental Protection
Agency
Ms. Kathleen McGinty, Director, White House Office on
Environmental Policy