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Subgroup/Office of Origin: Council on Environmental Quality
Series/Staff Member: Kathleen (Katie) McGinty
Subseries: *[Correspondence]*

OA/ID Number: 2256
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Folder Title:
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 27, 1993

Ms. Priscilla Nesbitt
24379 Portola Road
Carmel, CA 93923

Dear Ms. Nesbitt:

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

24379 Portola Road
Carmel, CA 93923
October 4, 1993

Ms. Katie McGinty, Director
Office of Environmental Policy
Room #360, the OEOB
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Ms. McGinty :

The national forests are not the property of the federal government or of the timber companies. They are the property of the American people. This fact has been totally ignored in all the controversy about the forests.

As a citizen, I am one of the owners of the national forests, and I am very angry about the way they have long been abused for the profit of the timber industry. The U.S. Forest Service is no more than a puppet that dances when its strings are pulled by the industry giants. I am sick of it.

Option 9 is a sell-out. And as if that were not bad enough, we are threatened with sufficiency language which would limit citizens' appeals and judicial review and override existing environmental laws. This is intolerable.

I call on you to oppose Option 9 and create an option that would ban logging and provide permanent protection for all remaining national forests nationwide. A zero cut solution should be the goal.

It is time to consider the interests of the real owners of the national forests, the American people.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Priscilla Nesbitt". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping tail on the 't'.

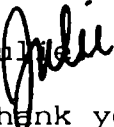
Priscilla Nesbitt

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 27, 1993

Ms. Julie Norman
Headwaters
P.O. Box 729
Ashland, OR 97520

Dear Julie 

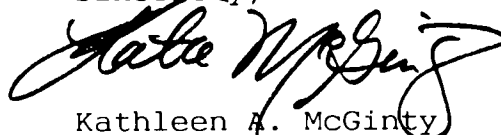
Thank you for your recent letter regarding President Clinton's Forest Management Plan. It was good hearing from you again.

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.

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. Please feel free to contact Mr. Will Stelle of my staff who is handling this issue.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,



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

KAM/avl



Headwaters

To protect and restore forest ecosystems

9/21/93

Katie

Here's a copy
of our first
comments on the
Clinton Forest Plan.

Let's stay in touch.

Julie Rorman

Headwaters

To protect and restore forest ecosystems

September 20, 1993

Dear Decision-Makers,

The attached comments on the DSEIS and FEMAT report are being sent to several individuals (in addition to the SEIS team leader) who we assume will have important roles in the decision-making process for the Final SEIS, Record of Decision, and the implementation process.

We are submitting these comments at this early date in response to the rumor that comments received after September 20th will not be able to be incorporated into the Final SEIS. This rumor is easy for us to believe, given our past experiences with short periods between draft and final documents, and with rushed schedules. We submitted extensive and detailed comments on the Forest Service's Final EIS (which the current SEIS supplements), and we submitted similar comments to the Interagency Working Group on Ecosystem Management Assessment who helped produce the SEIS, yet in neither case were our comments incorporated or responded to.

We hope to avoid what has happened with our comments in the past by submitting our comments on the DSEIS early in the comment period, and submitting them to many different individuals at once.

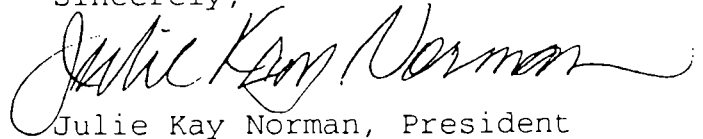
These comments are submitted in the spirit of cooperation, not acrimony. We feel that we are finally faced with a plan that if strengthened, is good enough to stand a chance of being implemented, and we wish therefore to set aside past differences so that we can work together to make it the best plan possible under the political circumstances.

Headwaters is a plaintiff in the current lawsuits, and we wish to do our best to help the Forest Service and the BLM comply with the letter and spirit of all applicable laws. Of course, we reserve our rights to submit additional comments on the DSEIS before the October 28th deadline.

Please feel free to contact us with questions about our proposals. We will follow up these comments with phone calls and requests for meetings with you to discuss key points.

Thanks for listening,

Sincerely,



Julie Kay Norman, President

cc:

Robert Jacobs, SEIS Team Leader
Dean Bibbes, Director, Oregon State BLM
John Lowe, Regional Forester, Region 6

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1993

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Nadler:

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.

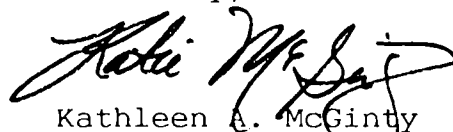
President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to the preservation of our natural resources in a way that leads to strong and sustainable economic growth. This Administration shares your concerns about the uncertainties surrounding wetlands policies of the past.

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,



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.

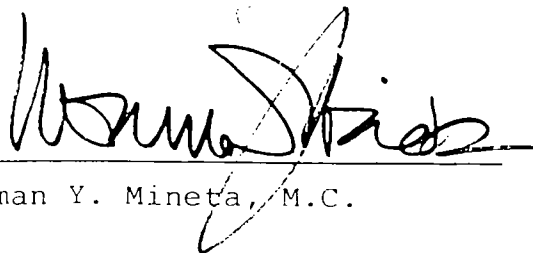
Because 74 percent of the nation's remaining wetlands are privately owned, we must look more toward incentive-based approaches to protecting wetlands. We urge support for the Wetlands Reserve Program, as well as tax incentives that encourage the donation of land to qualified conservation organizations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

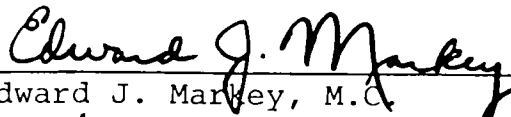
Sincerely,



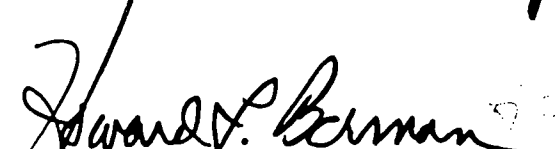
Don Edwards, M.C.



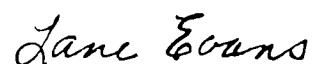
Norman Y. Mineta, M.C.


Edward J. Markey, M.C.

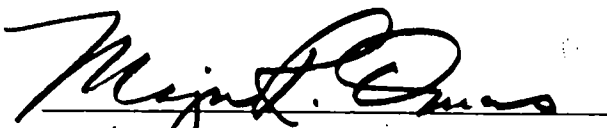

Ronald V. Dellums, M.C.

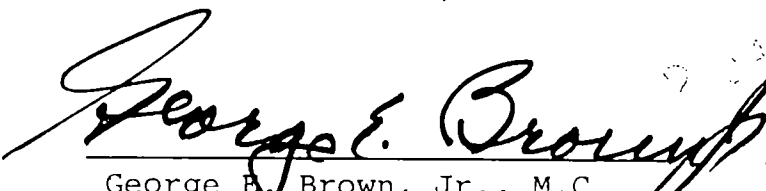

Howard L. Berman, M.C.

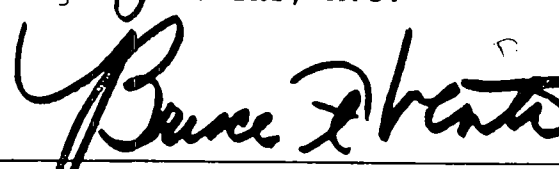

George Miller, M.C.


Lane Evans, M.C.

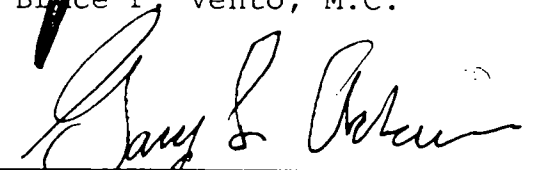

James L. Oberstar, M.C.

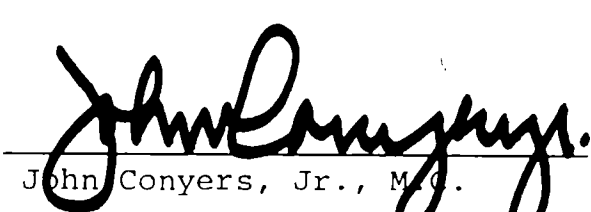

Major E. Owens, M.C.

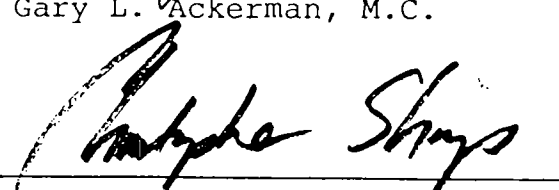

George E. Brown, Jr., M.C.

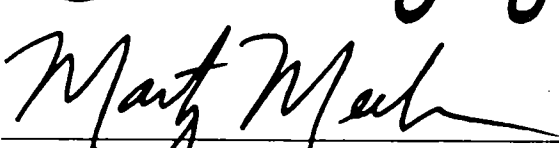

Bruce F. Vento, M.C.

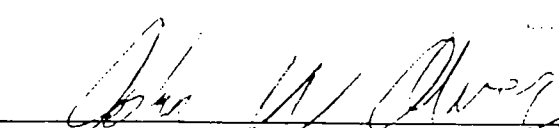

Anthony C. Beilenson, M.C.

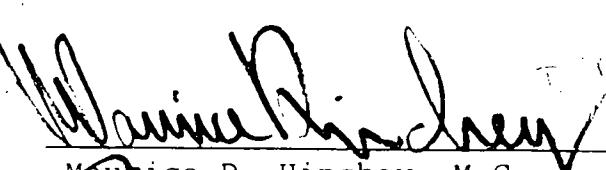

Gary L. Ackerman, M.C.


John Conyers, Jr., M.C.

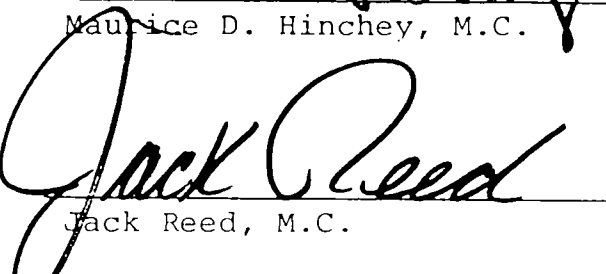

Christopher Shays, M.C.


Martin T. Meehan, M.C.


John W. Olver, M.C.

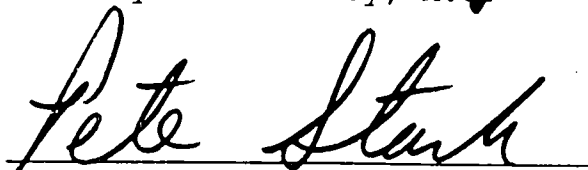

Maurice D. Hinchey, M.C.


Thomas H. Andrews, M.C.

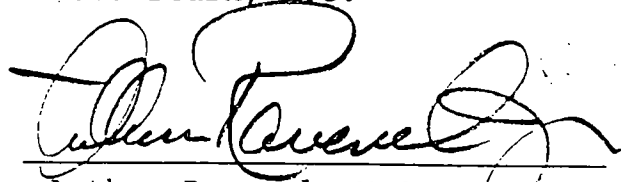

Jack Reed, M.C.

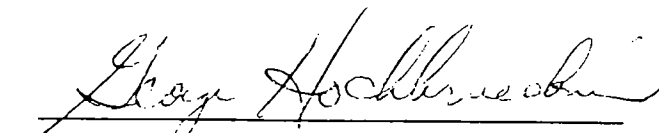

Carolyn B. Maloney, M.C.

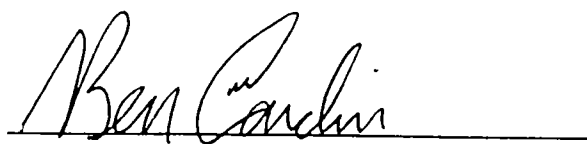

Anna G. Eshoo, M.C.

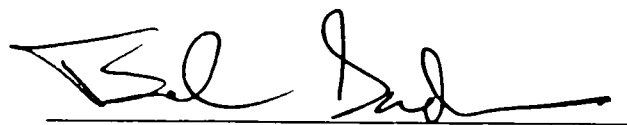

Pete Stark, M.C.

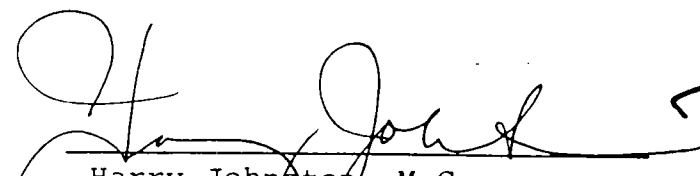

Nancy Pelosi, M.C.

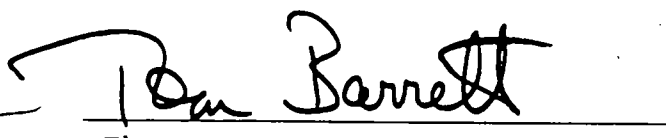

Arthur Ravenel, M.C.

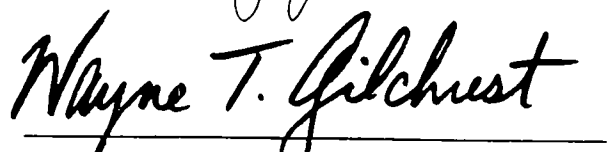

George J. Hochbrueckner, M.C.


Benjamin L. Cardin, M.C.

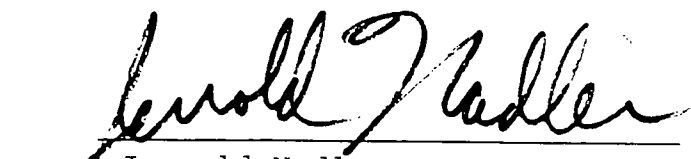

Bernard Sanders, M.C.

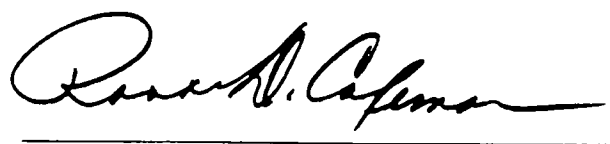

Harry Johnston, M.C.

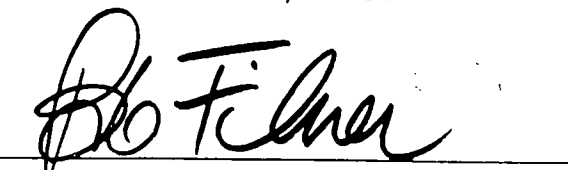

Thomas M. Barrett, M.C.

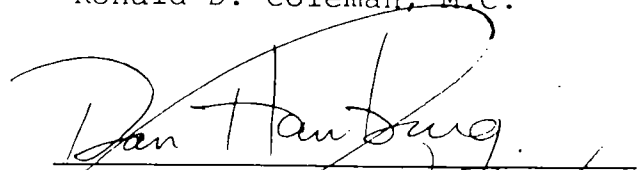

Wayne T. Gilchrest, M.C.

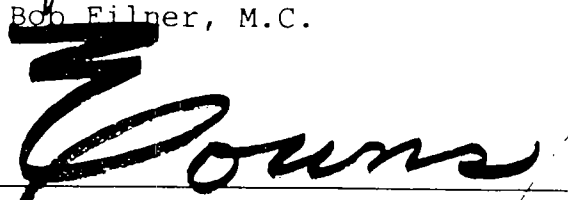

Lynn Schenk, M.C.


Jerrold Nadler, M.C.


Ronald D. Coleman, M.C.

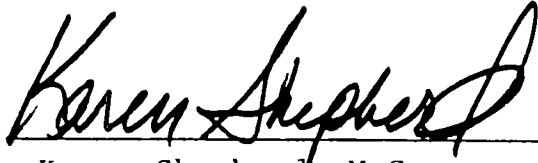

Bob Filner, M.C.

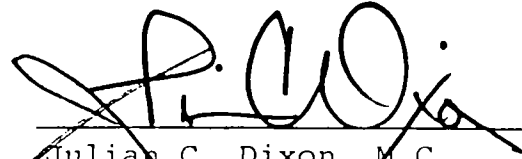

Dan Hamburg, M.C.


Edolphus Towns, M.C.


Andrew Jacobs, Jr., M.C.


Lynn C. Woolsey, M.C.


Karen Shepherd, M.C.


Julian C. Dixon, M.C.