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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
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:
[O - October 1993] [Loose]

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 27, 1993

Mr. George O'Nale
Route 2, Box 1293
New Castle, VA 24127

Dear Mr. O'Nale:

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

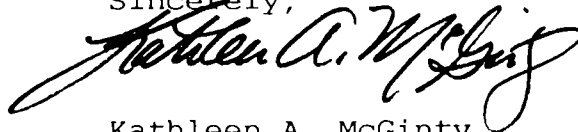
The President, the Vice President and I are committed to the preservation of the environment in a way that leads to strong and sustainable economic growth. We believe that the Forest Conference was a significant step toward the resolution of the problems facing the Pacific Northwest.

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" being more prominent and the last name "McGinty" following in a similar style.

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

KAM/avl

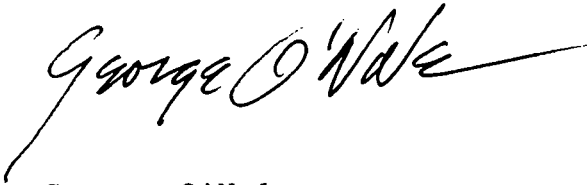
October 18, 1993

Kathleen McGinty, Director
Office of Environmental Policy
Room 350 Old Executive Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Director McGinty,

Please accept these comments I've sent to James Lyons on the President's Plan on the Pacific Northwest Forest, and take them into consideration for future executive decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George O'Nale". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

George O'Nale
Rt. 2 Box 1293
New Castle, Virginia 24127

October 18,1993

James Lyons
Assistant Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
Room 2173 North Building
Washington,D.C. 20250

RE: The Pacific Northwest Forest Plan and Option Nine.

Dear Mr. Lyons,

Please accept these comments in your considerations and decision on the President's Plan to protect the Northwest Forest. I'm asking that you protect that Forest by establishing a true ancient-forest reserve system and reject Option Nine. Option Nine is a poor compromise that does little for any of the various people involved, and worse for the forest. Option One would be a better choice for the forest, then deal with economic and political problems separately.

Further salvage and thinning cuts are inadvisable after the high degree of theft in this region was revealed. No adequate monitoring or law enforcement systems exist inside the current Forest Service to continue unregulated harvesting methods. Thefts took place under the color of legitimate timber contracts, and were ignored by the current FS administrators. A true timber inventory by an outside agency should be the first order of business before any kind of cutting resumes. You can't harvest a phantom forest, and Congress has already uncovered large discrepancies in FS accounts. Salvage sales return nothing to the local communities you are attempting to help at the same time. And while this is being decided the same mistakes are starting to be made on eastern slope forests.

A new Forest Service Chief is needed.

Unless the federal government is willing to fund and staff an active, efficient, and professional Forest Service system with wide reforms, it would benefit us all...the Northwest Forest right to individual taxpayers...simply to shut the Forest Service down. Every news article that covers government waste and boondoggling now includes the Forest Service as an example. Internal reforms are needed in the Forest Service, not just a better Plan for one region run by the same folks that created this mess we find ourselves in. Real professionals in the FS have been fired, transferred or forced into retirement simply for doing their duty and reporting facts. If you won't attempt to get the politics out of the FS, next time you'll be looking at even a worse compromise than Option Nine.

If you mean to assist timber-dependent communities, then do so directly, and leave the forest alone. If you want to subsidize the timber industry, then call a subsidy a subsidy. Another below-cost timber sale is unacceptable if you are looking at the future. It would be cheaper to pay timber people not to cut lumber just as the USDA pays farmers not to grow certain crops, then continue as we have in our forest over the last few decades. One reform is much needed; no monies or profits made from natural resources like timber should be allowed to be spent for lobbying or campaign donations. It's a good first step to reform.

Any new Plan for the Northwest Forest should be contingent on the Endangered Species Act being renewed and strengthened. You cannot make policy for this region alone, without affecting the other National Forests. That any real protection the forests and its species receive comes from Federal Judges only shows how weak we are in leadership. Another Federal Judge in Texas has stopped the Forest Service there from further clearcutting, a practice the Forest Service still claims is the optimum method of timber harvest. At the same time studies are underway on National Forests in Virginia to see if clearcutting is detrimental to forest regeneration. The Forest Service will never be able to solve their own problems without some direction from outside their own service.

For some more specific needs in the Presidents plan; end timber exports, keep the ASQ below a billion board feet with strict on-site monitoring, no federal timber contracts to any individual or group convicted of theft, specific reserves of forest designated in Washington, Oregon and Northern California above the ten million acre level, eastern slope and Sierra Nevada protection, and no "sufficiency" language anywhere in the Plan.

Adopt Option One. It offers the greatest protection that Forest needs.

Sincerely,

George O'Nale
Rt. 2 Box 1293
New Castle, Virginia 24127

cc: Kathleen McGinty, Director, OEP
Congressman Rick Boucher

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 28, 1993

The Honorable Hazel O'Leary
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary O'Leary:

I wanted to thank you and your staff for all your help in developing the President's Climate Change Action Plan. I believe that the Plan represents a bold new way of addressing today's difficult and pressing global environmental challenges.

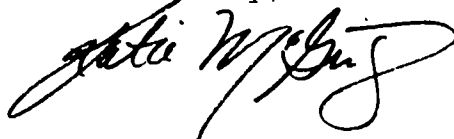
That the announcement on October 25 was a success was due in no small part to your participation and effective representation of the President's plan. ("Voluntary is not a dirty word" has become the quote of the day.) I certainly appreciate all of the hard work that went into this initiative, from the development of effective policies to the actual announcement logistics.

I would especially like to commend to you the work of Rich Rosenzweig, Dirk Forrister, and Abe Haspel. They were all truly tireless in their efforts.

Rich in particular was a great platoon commander, mobilizing the DOE troops at every turn. Without your help and Rich's constant attention to this effort we simply would not have been able to achieve this important success.

Again, thanks for your dedication to this initiative. I look forward to working closely with you as we move toward the implementation of the Action Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen McGinty", with a stylized, flowing script.

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

KAM/avl

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 27, 1993

Ms. Ellen O'Leary
3877 Fawn Court
Shrub Oak, NY 10588

Dear Ms. O'Leary:

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

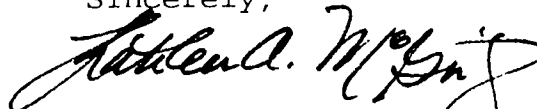
The President, the Vice President and I are committed to the preservation of the environment in a way that leads to strong and sustainable economic growth. We believe that the Forest Conference was a significant step toward the resolution of the problems facing the Pacific Northwest.

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

Shelly

3877 Fawn Court
Shrub Oak, NY 10588
October 1, 1993

VIA FACSIMILE
202-456-2710

Ms. Katie McGinty
Deputy Assist. to the President
Director-Office of Environmental Policy
Room 360
Old Executive Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20501

Re: U.S. - Pacific Northwest Forest Plan

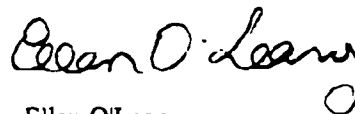
Dear Ms. McGinty:

Reference the above matter, I ask that you relay my letter of concern to President Clinton. Please ask him to adhere to his promise to develop a scientifically sound, ecologically credible and legally responsible plan for protecting the Pacific Northwest public forests. We, the tax payers, want ALL the remaining ancient forests protected.

Also, we MUST stop the export of "raw logs." Let's keep the log processing jobs in the U.S. and export only "finished wood products." Opportunities, such as economic assistance and investment, should be provided to rural fish and timber-related communities in the Northwest.

I thank you for your time and would appreciate a response to this appeal for help.

Sincerely,



Ellen O'Leary

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1993

The Honorable James L. Oberstar
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Oberstar:

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.

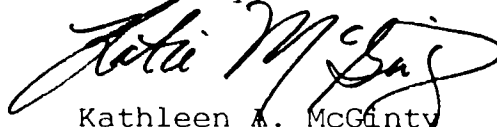
President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to the preservation of our natural resources in a way that leads to strong and sustainable economic growth. This Administration shares your concerns about the uncertainties surrounding wetlands policies of the past.

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.

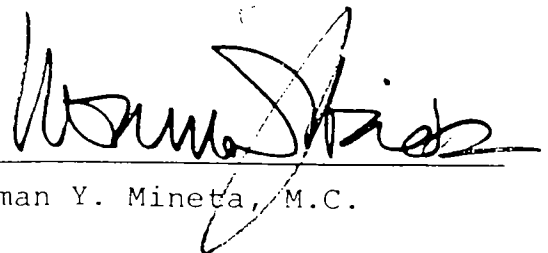
Because 74 percent of the nation's remaining wetlands are privately owned, we must look more toward incentive-based approaches to protecting wetlands. We urge support for the Wetlands Reserve Program, as well as tax incentives that encourage the donation of land to qualified conservation organizations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

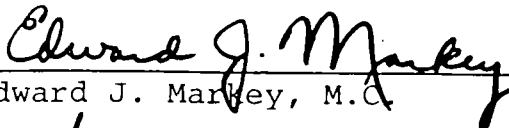
Sincerely,

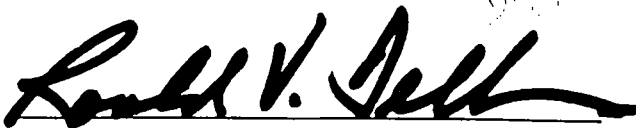


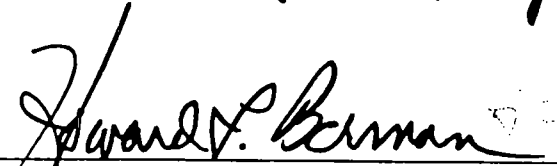
Don Edwards, M.C.



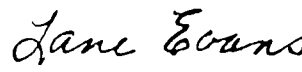
Norman Y. Mineta, M.C.


Edward J. Markey, M.C.


Ronald V. Dellums, M.C.

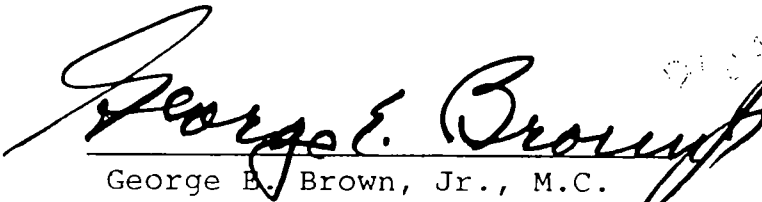

Howard L. Berman, M.C.


George Miller, M.C.


Lane Evans, M.C.

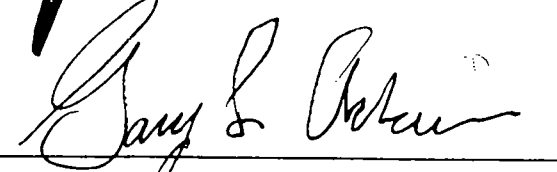

James L. Oberstar, M.C.

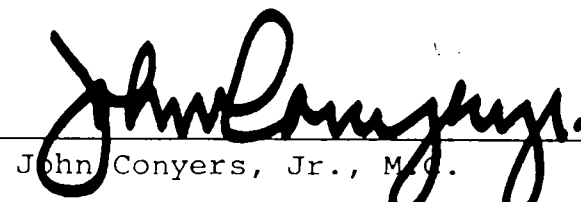

Major F. Owens, M.C.

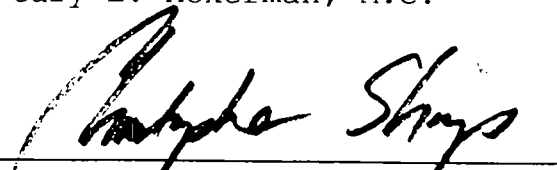

George E. Brown, Jr., M.C.

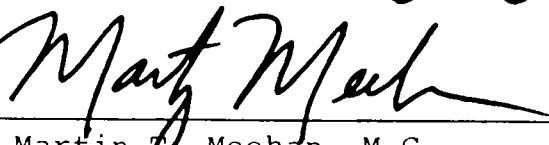

Bruce F. Vento, M.C.

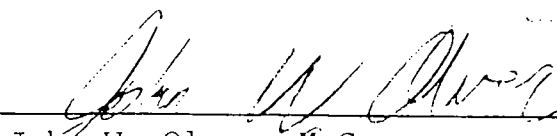

Anthony C. Beilenson, M.C.

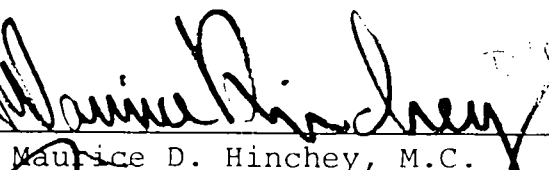

Gary L. Ackerman, M.C.


John Conyers, Jr., M.C.

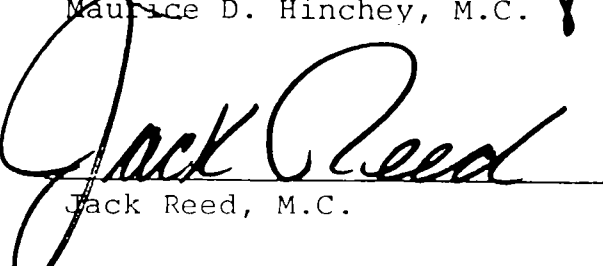

Christopher Shays, M.C.

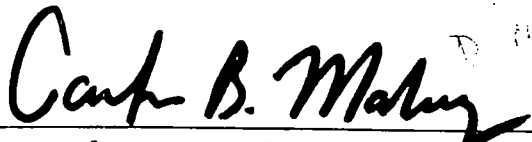

Martin T. Meehan, M.C.


John W. Olver, M.C.

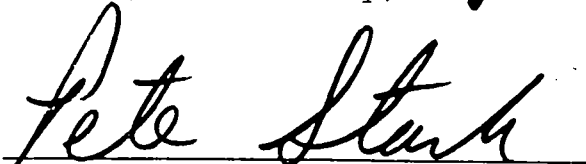

Maurice D. Hinchey, M.C.


Thomas H. Andrews, M.C.


Jack Reed, M.C.

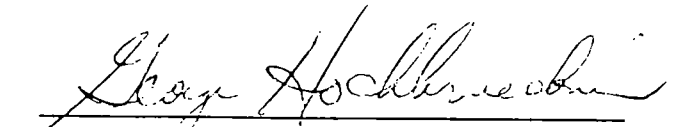

Carolyn B. Maloney, M.C.

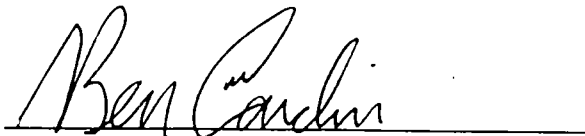

Anna G. Eshoo, M.C.


Pete Stark, M.C.

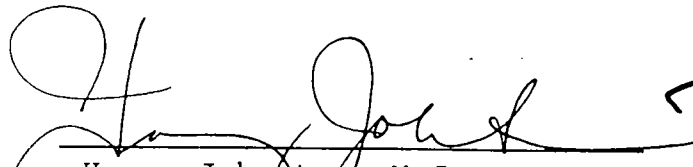

Nancy Pelosi, M.C.

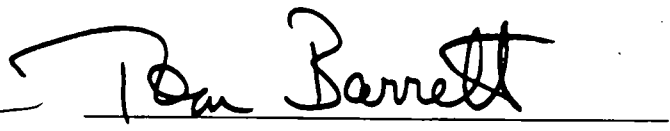

Arthur Ravenel, M.C.

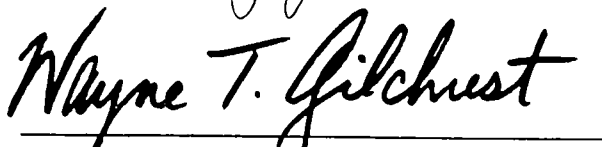

George J. Hochbrueckner, M.C.

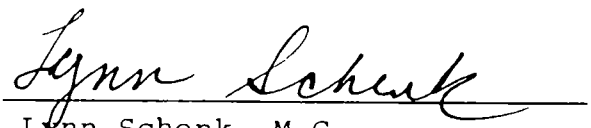

Benjamin L. Cardin, M.C.

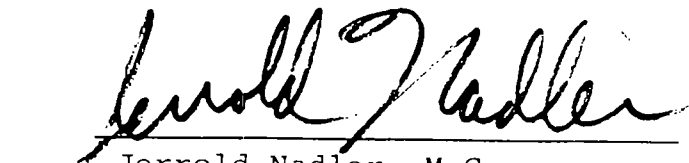

Bernard Sanders, M.C.


Harry Johnston, M.C.

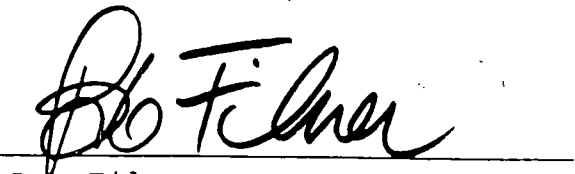

Thomas M. Barrett, M.C.

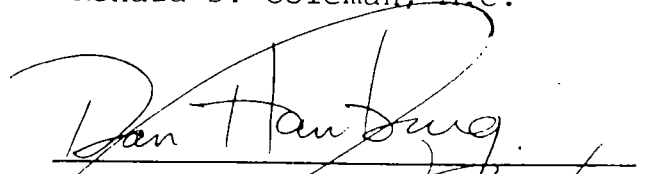

Wayne T. Gilchrest, M.C.

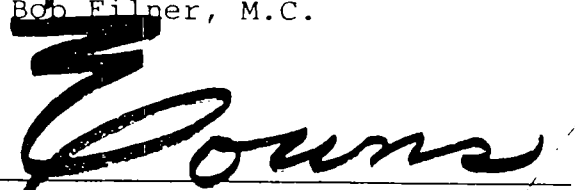

Lynn Schenk, M.C.

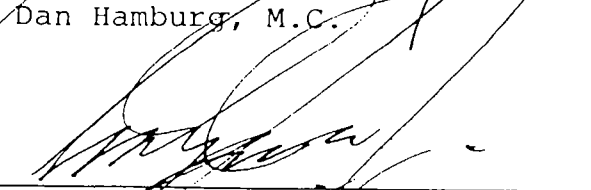

Jerrold Nadler, M.C.


Ronald D. Coleman, M.C.

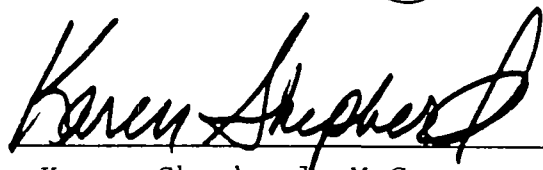

Bob Filner, M.C.

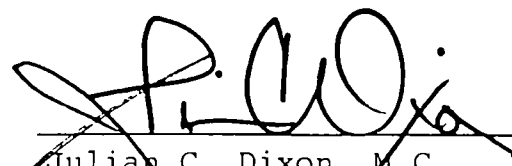

Dan Hamburg, M.C.


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 21, 1993

The Honorable Major R. Owens
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Owens:

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.

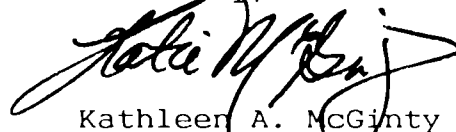
President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to the preservation of our natural resources in a way that leads to strong and sustainable economic growth. This Administration shares your concerns about the uncertainties surrounding wetlands policies of the past.

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:

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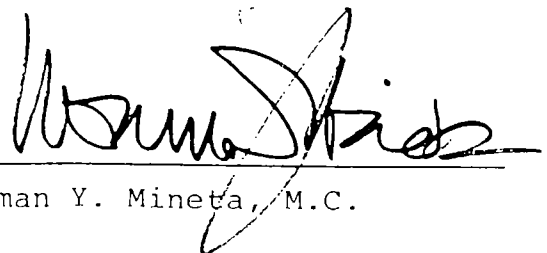
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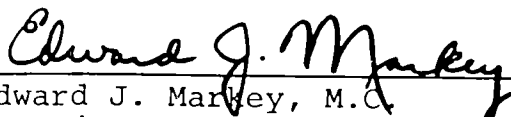
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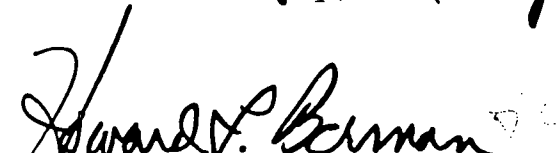
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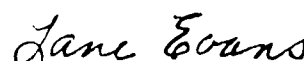
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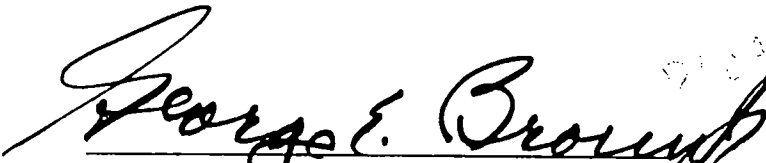

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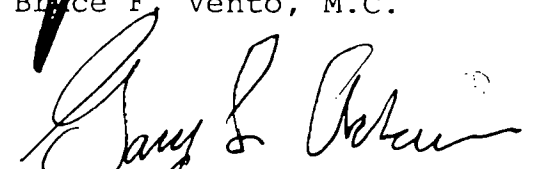

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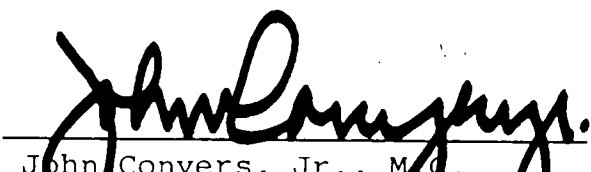

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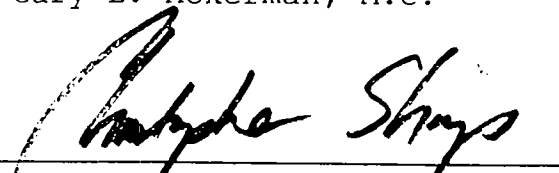

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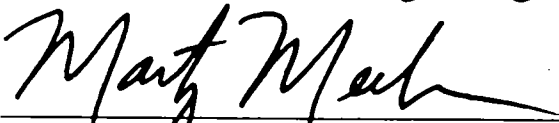

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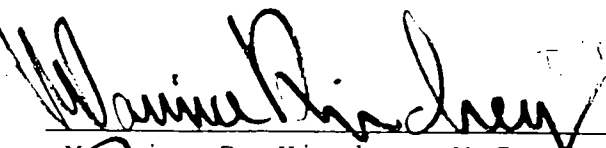

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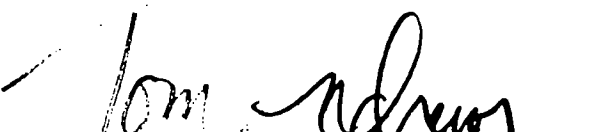

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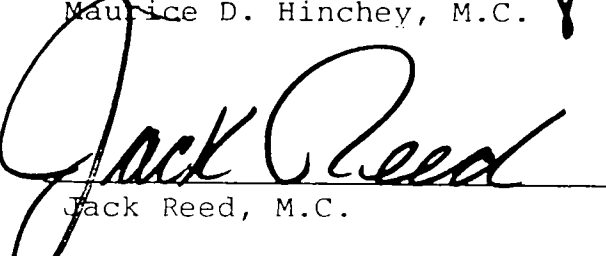

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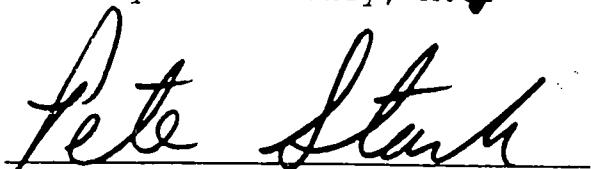

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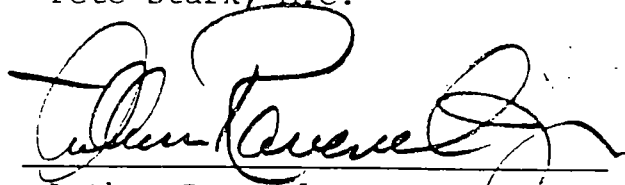

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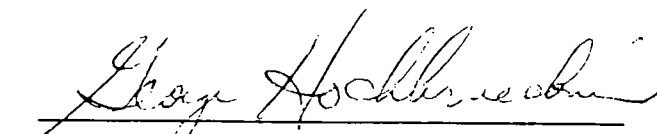

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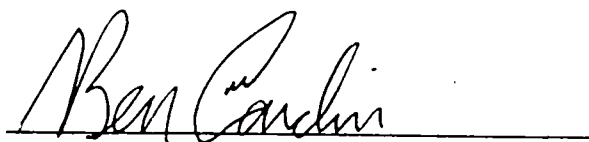

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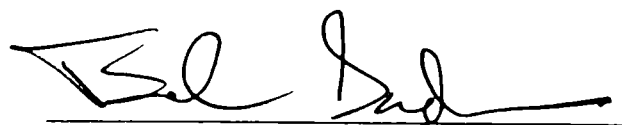

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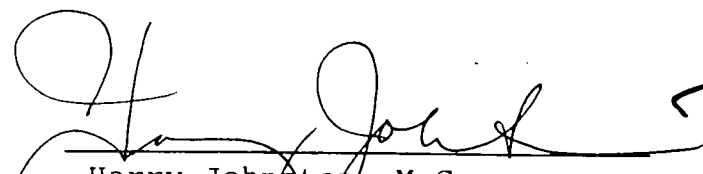

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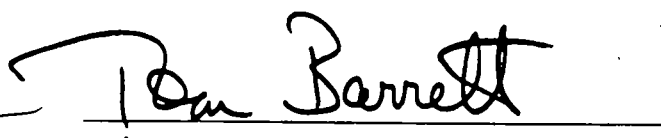

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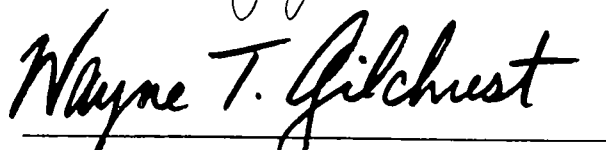

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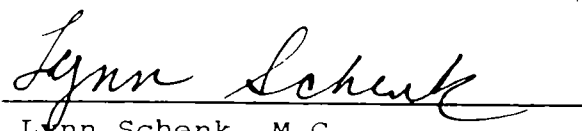

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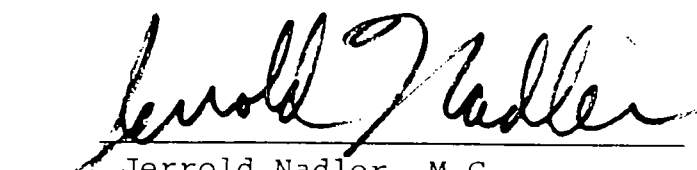

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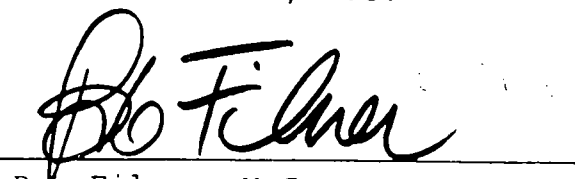

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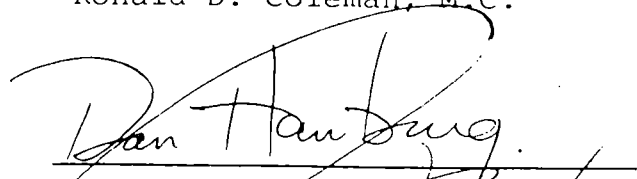

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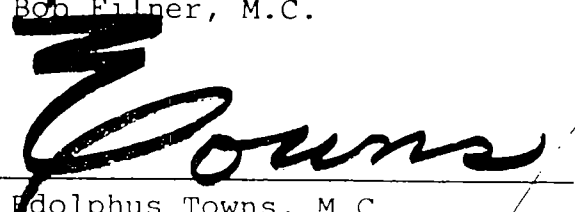

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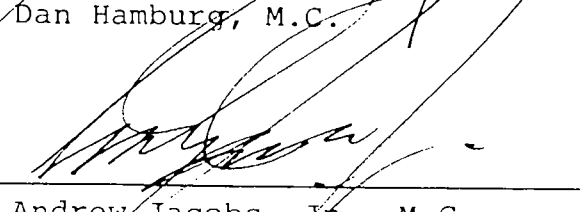

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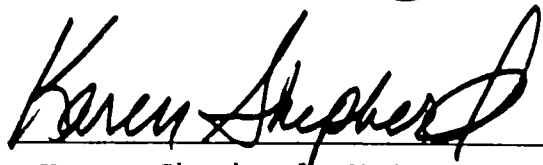

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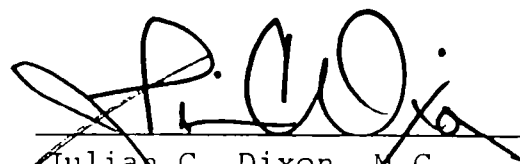

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1993

The Honorable John W. Olver
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Olver:

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.

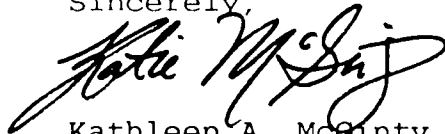
President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to the preservation of our natural resources in a way that leads to strong and sustainable economic growth. This Administration shares your concerns about the uncertainties surrounding wetlands policies of the past.

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. McInty
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.

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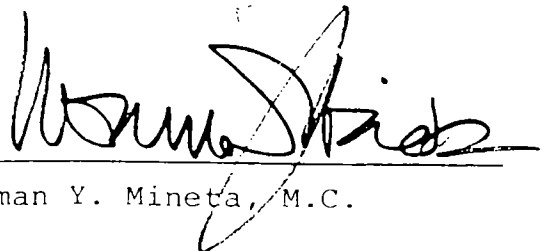
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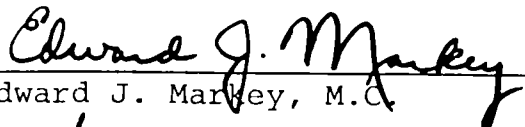
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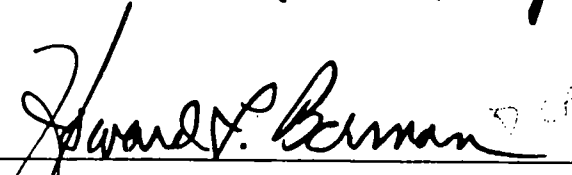
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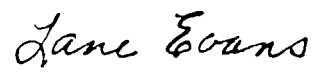
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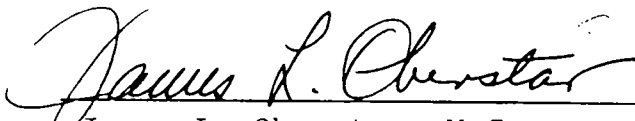

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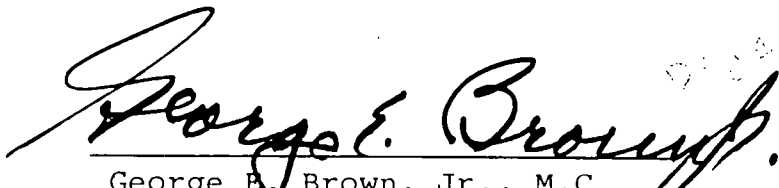

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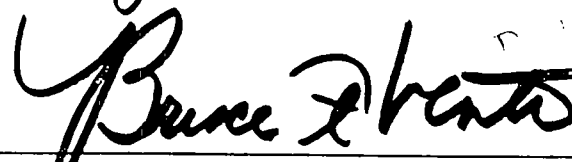

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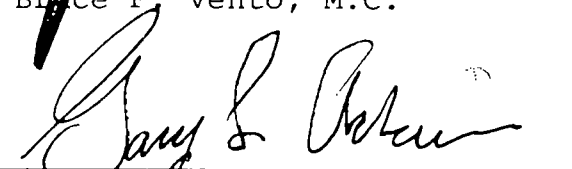

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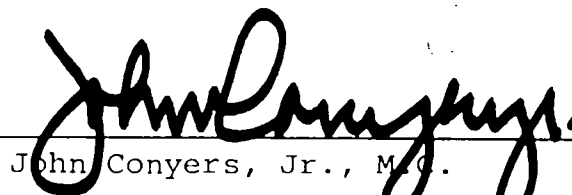

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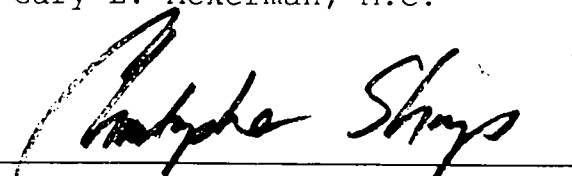

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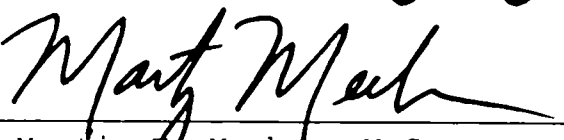

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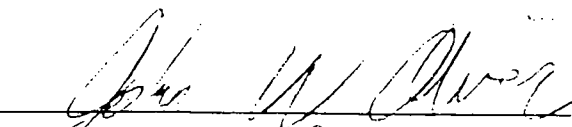

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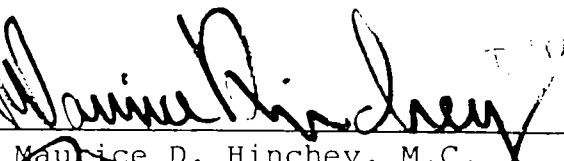

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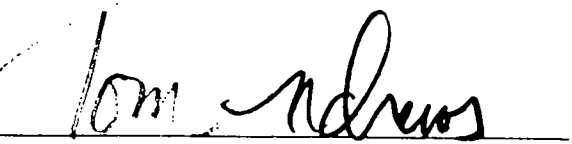

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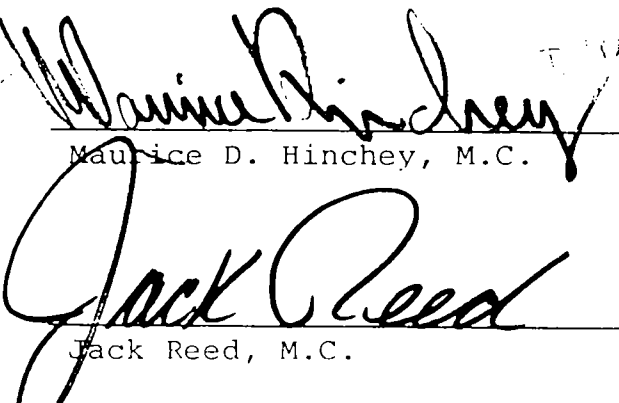

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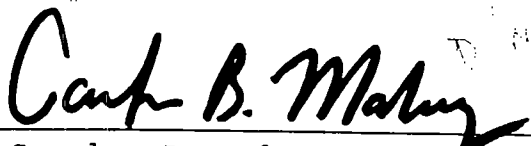

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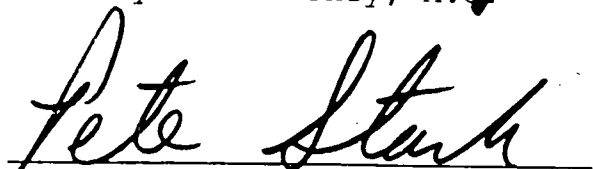

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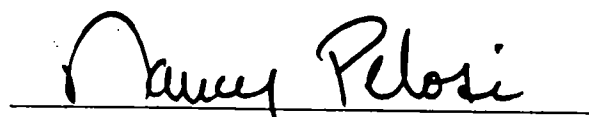

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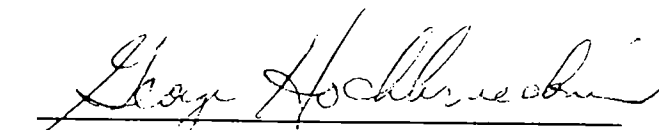

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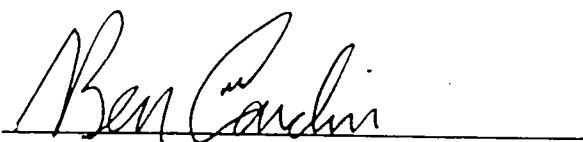

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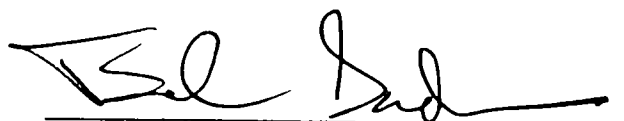

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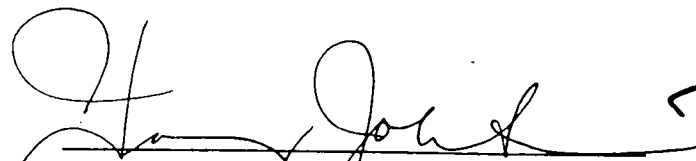

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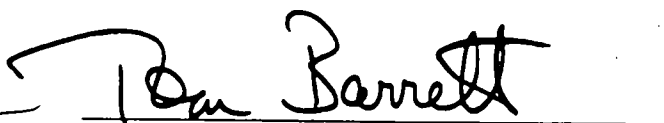

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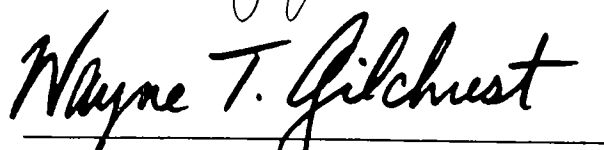

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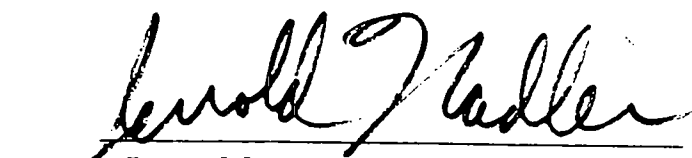

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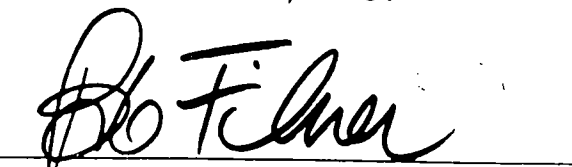

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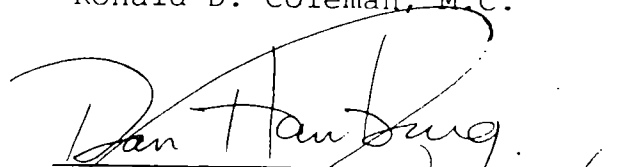

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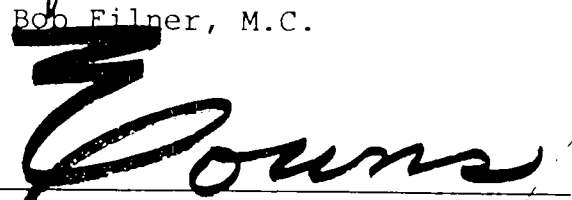

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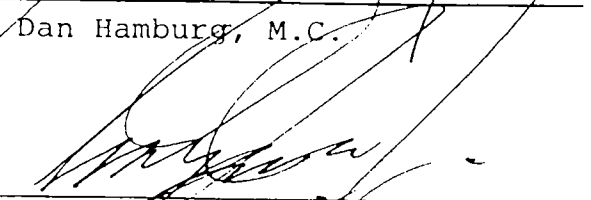

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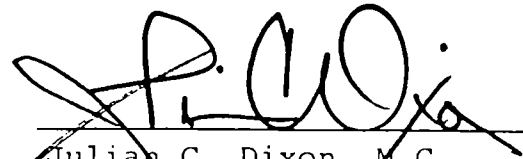

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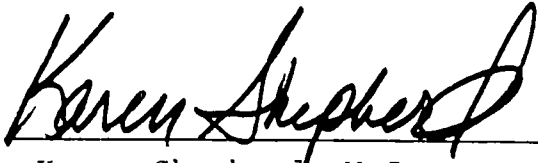

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Lynn C. Woolsey, M.C.


Julian C. Dixon, M.C.


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