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

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Brian
rept
letter

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 25, 1994

Mr. Leonard R. Robinson
Environmental/Safety Manager
TAMCO
12459 Arrow Highway
P.O. Box 325
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Thank you for your letter and information about your recycling operation. It was good to hear from you.

As you know, I share the President's dedication to environmental protection and sustainable economic development. I appreciate learning about the important work that you are performing at TAMCO.

You may be interested to learn that the Environmental Protection Agency is planning an effort to look at its regulatory system so as to reduce unintended barriers to technological innovation. Innovative recycling, as you mention, can and is improving the environment every day.

Thank you again for writing. I wish you the best in your efforts at TAMCO.

Sincerely,



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

KAM/jdm

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 22, 1994

June Robinson
6651 Westside Rd.
Cave Junction, OR 97523

Dear Ms. Robinson:

Thank you for your letter about Option 9, the President's Forest Plan. This Administration shares your desire that the adopted Forest Plan be both legally and biologically sound and defensible. I assure you that it will be both. Thank you again for your concern, and for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William Stelle", is written over the typed name.

William Stelle
Associate Director for Natural Resources
White House Office on Environmental Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 25, 1994

Ms. Gloria C. Rains
ManaSota-88
5314 Bay State Road
Palmetto, FL 34221

Dear Ms. Rains:

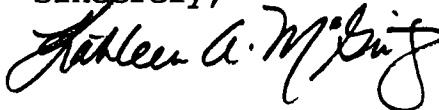
Thank you for contacting me regarding your thoughts about federal wetlands policy. It was good to hear from you, and I sincerely apologize for the delay in responding.

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. 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 wetlands policy announced last August is the culmination of the hard work of this working group.

With regard to your specific concerns about mitigation, the section 404 regulatory program relies upon a sequential approach to mitigating the harmful effects of such activities by first avoiding unnecessary impacts, then minimizing environmental harm, and, finally, compensating for remaining unavoidable damage to wetlands and other waters through, for example, the restoration or creation of wetlands. We believe that this sequential approach to mitigation provides an effective and environmentally-sound framework for addressing this important issue.

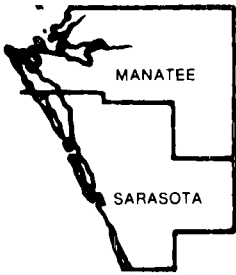
Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,



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

KAM/avl



MANASOTA - 88

A Project for Environmental Quality 1968 - 2088

January 14, 1994

Ms. Kathleen McGinty
Office on Environmental Policy
Washington, D.C. 20501

Re: White House Wetlands Policy

Chairman
Gloria Rains
Manatee

Vice Chairmen
Rebecca Eger
Sarasota

Kit Fernald
Manatee

Treasurer
Kit Fernald
Manatee

Energy
Edith Holmes
Sarasota

Hilda Quy
Manatee

Land Use
Mary Compton
Glen Compton
Sarasota/Manatee

Water Quality
Bruce Pitzer
Sarasota

Doris Schember
Manatee

Air Quality
Mary Jelks, MD
Sarasota

Solid Waste
Charles Holmes
Sarasota

Marge Peters
Manatee

Information Office
5314 Bay State Road
Palmetto, FL 34221
(813) 722-7413
FAX # (813) 722-4331

Dear Ms. McGinty:

ManaSota-88, an environmental health organization of some 3,000 members, opposes the permitting of wetland destruction in exchange for compensatory mitigation. "Restoring" wetlands as a substitute for existing wetlands continues to prove unsuccessful. As noted by the National Research Council, "Wetland restoration should not be used to mitigate avoidable destruction of other wetlands until it can be scientifically demonstrated that the replacement ecosystems are of equal or better functioning." ManaSota-88 continues to advocate that local, state and federal governments use comprehensive land-use planning to prevent further destruction of wetlands.

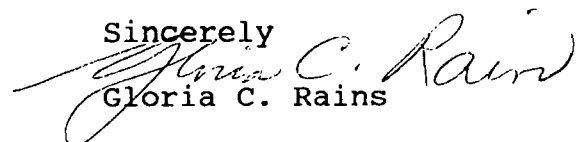
ManaSota-88 also opposes the delegation of federal wetlands permitting to local and regional governments. With the political pressure that will ensue, putting this authority into local hands ensures there will be expedited destruction of our remaining wetlands.

The appeals process proposed by the Administration is absolutely wrong. Allowing developers and other permit applicants to appeal permit denials without allowing citizens an equal opportunity to appeal permit issuances is not acceptable.

If more than 19 million acres of wetlands had not been eliminated from the drainage basins of the Mississippi & Missouri rivers north of St. Louis since the late 1700s, the recent floods would not have been so severe. The states that suffered the most from the recent floods have lost 85% or more of their marshes, bogs and fens.

Please provide the leadership necessary to protect the country's rapidly vanishing wetlands and the public's interest. Until more stringent wetland rules are adopted, wetlands will continue to disappear. Flood control and water quality problems will become even more serious.

Sincerely


Gloria C. Rains



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 22, 1994

Mr. George Rupp
President
Columbia University
202 Low Library
New York, NY 10027

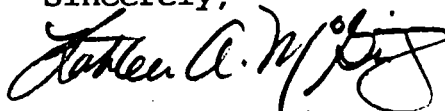
Dear Mr. Rupp:

Congratulations to Columbia University on receiving the Partner Certificate of Distinction for Public Education on the Benefits of the EPA's Green Lights Program! The program is doing remarkably well, in no small part because of participation like Columbia University's, and we are pleased to have your organization joining in efforts to help the environment and the economy. Commitment to sustainable development is a cornerstone to President Clinton's philosophy and is driving our environmental agenda throughout the Administration.

As you may know, last October President Clinton released his Climate Change Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000. The Green Lights Program is one of the initiatives which will play a significant role in the implementation of the Action Plan. I want to commend you for your active participation in this program.

Again, congratulations.

Sincerely,



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

KAM/avl

February 8, 1994

The Honorable Janet Reno
Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice
10th Street & Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530
Attn: Webster Hubbell

Dear Attorney General Reno:

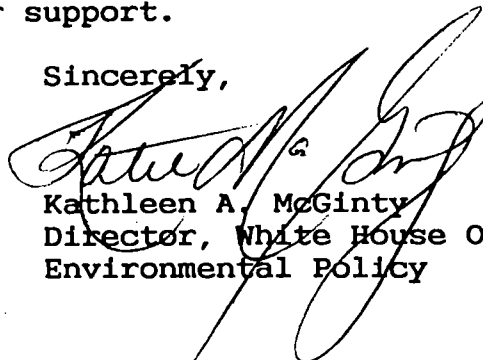
As you know, the President recently signed the Executive Order on Federal Acquisition, Recycling, and Waste Prevention to establish the Federal Government as a model for private and public institutions in this regard. It will reduce solid waste, build markets for recycled products, encourage new technologies and protect the environment.

Among other important provisions, the Executive Order requires the appointment of a Federal Environmental Executive to spearhead the implementation of the Order. Consequently, in conjunction with the EPA, we are currently in the process of reviewing the many qualified applicants, and hope to make an announcement soon.

In the meantime, we request that each agency move expeditiously in naming an internal Environmental Executive as specified in the Order. As you know, the Order sets an aggressive timeline for implementation. In the time until the Federal Environmental Executive is named, please notify me of your choice. This will allow the Federal Environmental Executive to quickly avail him or herself of the expertise of each agency.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, likely belonging to Kathleen A. McGinty, is written over the typed name and title.

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 8, 1994

The Honorable Robert Reich
Secretary
Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210
Attn: Kitty Higgins

Dear Secretary Reich:

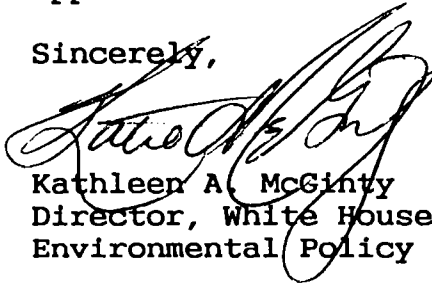
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Kathleen A. McGinty
Director, White House Office on
Environmental Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 8, 1994

The Honorable Richard Riley
Secretary
Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202
Attn: Billy Webster

Dear Secretary Riley:

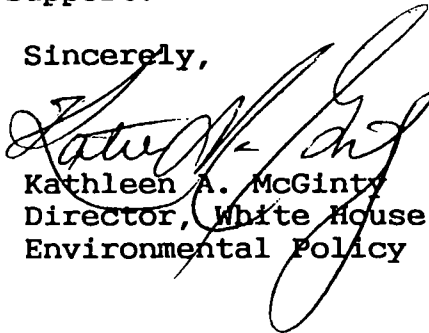
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Sincerely,



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