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Subseries: [Correspondence]

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 28, 1993

Mr. Nicholas A. Veliotos
President
Association of American
Publishers, Inc.
1718 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009-1148

Dear Mr. Veliotos:

Thank you for contacting my office regarding your thoughts about the Executive Order on Recycled Goods.

As you know, the President recently signed the Executive Order on Federal Acquisition, Recycling, and Waste Prevention. This Executive Order is the outcome of much hard work and consultation with industry and labor representatives, the environmental community, and consumer groups, as well as congressional and agency staff members.

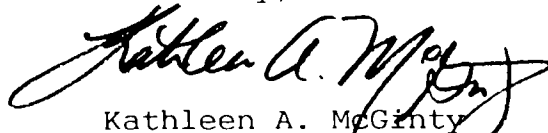
The Order will reduce solid waste, build markets for recycled products, encourage new technologies and protect the environment. This Executive Order requires all Federal purchases of printing and writing paper to contain 20 percent post-consumer material by the end of 1994, and 30 percent by the end of 1998. In addition, in order to further reduce the burden on landfills, paper made with 50 percent recovered by-products from the production of goods other than paper or textiles may be purchased, provided that this waste would otherwise end up in a landfill, as determined by the State.

And, the order directs the General Services Administration to revise paper specifications to allow agencies to purchase paper made with processes that minimize emissions of harmful by-products, including chlorinated compounds. According to some studies, these by-products can cause environmental damage including an increased risk of cancer.

In addition, this Executive Order requires agencies to make up any price increase by cutting waste and using less paper. We believe that this initiative will achieve the desired results of spurring recycling efforts and promoting a healthy environment.

Again, thank you for letting me hear from you.

Sincerely,



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

KAM/avl

1718 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009-1148
Telephone 202 232-3335
Fax 202 745-0694

Nicholas A. Veliotis
President

October 5, 1993

Ms. Kathleen McGinty
Deputy Assistant to the President
Director, Office of Environmental Policy
Old Executive Office Building, Room 360
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Ms. McGinty:

As a follow-up to our previous letter, the Association of American Publishers (AAP) would like to take this opportunity to comment further on some of the issues being addressed in the impending White House Executive Order that would establish Federal procurement guidelines for printing and writing paper. AAP represents over 200 publishers of books and journals in the United States. As large consumers of paper in this country, AAP's members have a very significant vested interest in the issues being considered. AAP's members have a long history of environmental and cultural responsibility, and are committed to working with other interested parties to arrive at economically responsible solutions to environmental concerns.

It is important to recognize the unique position that publishers find themselves in when addressing issues such as definitions of recycled paper and minimum content standards. With no ability to directly control either the paper manufacturing process or what becomes of the final product once it reaches the consumer, book publishers run the risk of being caught in the middle, and held accountable for the actions of others.

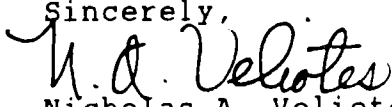
AAP's members are concerned that Federal procurement standards may, directly or indirectly, impact the private sector. Even if these minimum content standards are not legislated in the form of environmental labeling laws, the Order is likely to have a major negative impact on the industry. If, as reported, 20% and 30% post-consumer content levels become the accepted definition of "recycled" paper, publishers will be unable to either purchase adequate quantities to meet their needs or label their products "recycled" now or in the foreseeable future. At a time when publishers are taking great strides to incorporate environmentally sound materials and processes into their businesses, it seems counterproductive to constrict the availability of the very materials whose use we are encouraging.

In addition, in formulating your definition of recycled content, we urge you to consider the following. To the extent that publishers are able to recover printed materials including books that have been printed but not purchased, obsolete and damaged books, these materials, if not recycled, would be landfilled. In order to be recycled, these materials must be de-inked regardless of their source. To choose between books that have been purchased and read and those that have not, for the purpose of recycling, is to create a distinction without a difference. It would also create a substantial disincentive for publishers to engage in an economically sound, closed-loop process that is just beginning to show the potential for being an important new source of recycling. For these reasons, AAP supports a "de-inked" standard that specifies the paper has been previously printed on, rather than a "post-consumer" standard that focuses solely on the source of recovery.

Finally, it is our understanding that in order for the paper industry to manufacture large quantities of 20% and 30% post-consumer recycled papers, it will have to invest inordinate amounts of capital at a rate much greater than it will be able to absorb. As a result of this, first, the American paper industry, one of the most globally competitive industries in this country, will lose the advantage it currently enjoys. Second, this will result in the cost of paper escalating dramatically for paper consumers. American publishers, especially small and medium-sized publishing houses, will be severely hurt by an increase in their raw materials cost. In order to enable all publishers to participate in the industry trend toward economically sound and environmentally friendly publishing, we recommend a more gradual increase in post-consumer or comparable content standards, phased in over time, that would lessen the likelihood of market inefficiencies and financial catastrophe for all affected industries.

In sum, AAP members support the goals of the proposed Executive Order and, consistent with current technology and anticipated greater recycled capacity, could support a 10% de-inked standard immediately, a 15% standard by 1996, and on-going assessment to determine at what pace the paper industry is able to increase the standard without causing undue financial hardship to the various affected segments of the paper, printing and publishing industries.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our views with you on these important matters and look forward to an on-going dialogue on these and other issues.

Sincerely,

Nicholas A. Veliotis

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 27, 1993

Mr. Jerome Visto
1916 Visto Road
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Dear Mr. Visto:

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

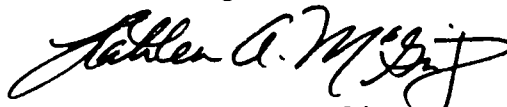
The President, the Vice President and I are committed to the preservation of the environment in a way that leads to strong and sustainable economic growth. We believe that the Forest Conference was a significant step toward the resolution of the problems facing the Pacific Northwest.

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

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,

Name Norma Visto

Address 1916 Visto Rd

City, State, Zip Sturgeon Bay, W. 54235

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 14, 1993

The Honorable Tim Valentine
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Valentine:

Thank you for contacting my office regarding your thoughts about the proposed Executive Order on Recycled Goods. I appreciate hearing from you.

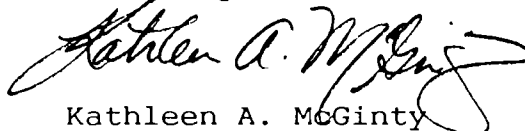
President Clinton and I believe that recycling has to be an important part of our strategy in our efforts to preserve our environment. Through the hard work and initiative of many community and industry leaders, recycling has become almost routine to many people. However, to really make recycling a success, further outreach is needed to encourage both the supply and demand for recycled products.

As a means to this end, the President asked that the Office on Environmental Policy work on an initiative to encourage the use of recycled and recovered goods. The draft Executive Order is the outcome of much hard work and consultation with industry and labor representatives, the environmental community, and consumer groups, as well as congressional and agency staff members. This initiative will require the federal agencies to use paper containing recycled materials. This Administration believes that through this executive order, the demand for and therefore the production of goods containing recycled materials will increase, thereby increasing the incentive for the public involvement in the overall recycling movement.

I certainly appreciate learning your thoughts and concerns about the implementation of this draft Executive Order, specifically with regard to post-consumer content standards and the paper bleaching process. We believe that this initiative will achieve the desired results of spurring our nation's recycling efforts, while also promoting a healthy environment. Rest assured that we are carefully considering all policy options in this very important matter.

Again, thank you for letting me hear from you.

Sincerely,



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

TIM VALENTINE

SECOND DISTRICT
NORTH CAROLINA

PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

AVIATION

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

WATER RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT

SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES

SCIENCE

CHAIRMAN:

TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT
AND AVIATION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3302

October 4, 1993

WASHINGTON OFFICE

ED NAGY
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3302
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-4531

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101 TRIANGLE COURT
NASHVILLE, NC 27856
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TOLL FREE:
1-800-541-3456

Ms. Kathleen McGinty
Office of Environmental Policy
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. McGinty:

I am writing to express my reservations about an Executive Order on Recycling that is being developed by your office. I am concerned that policies being proposed on recycled content and methods of bleaching paper products may be at variance with procedures at the Environmental Protection Agency established by the Congress.

As you are aware, the House Public Works and Transportation Committee, on which I serve, invested a considerable amount of time in crafting a process under the Clean Water Act for the issuance of effluent guidelines. The Committee will likely revisit this issue this session during reauthorization of the Act.

The goal of the Public Works and Transportation Committee has always been to balance the maximum amount of environmental protection achievable with the need for economic growth and jobs. I believe that the ongoing EPA regulatory process is the best means of considering the various impacts of proposals on this matter.

I believe that the federal government has a legitimate role to play in addressing environmental issues, and my record in the House clearly reflects my commitment to environmental protection. At the same time, I believe that such issues should be considered in the proper forum.

I respectfully suggest that these two provisions be deleted from the Executive Order so as to allow for a more complete examination of their implications by EPA.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to working closely with you on this issue.

Cordially,

Tim Valentine



TV:jb

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1993

The Honorable Bruce F. Vento
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Vento:

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", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

KAM/avl

032356

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515: 00

August 5, 1993

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

Dear Mr. President:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

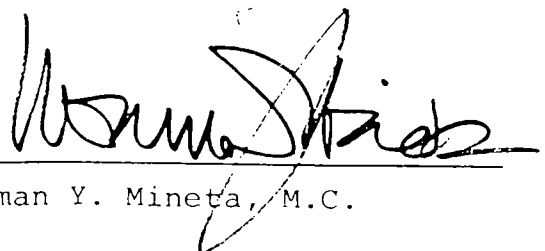
Because 74 percent of the nation's remaining wetlands are privately owned, we must look more toward incentive-based approaches to protecting wetlands. We urge support for the Wetlands Reserve Program, as well as tax incentives that encourage the donation of land to qualified conservation organizations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

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

Sincerely,



Don Edwards, M.C.



Norman Y. Mineta, M.C.

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

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

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

George Miller
George Miller, M.C.

Lane Evans
Lane Evans, M.C.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Christopher Shays
Christopher Shays, M.C.

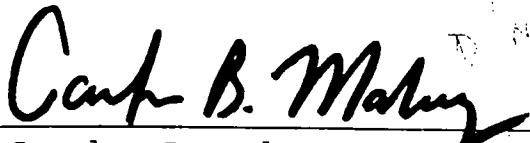
Martin T. Meehan
Martin T. Meehan, M.C.

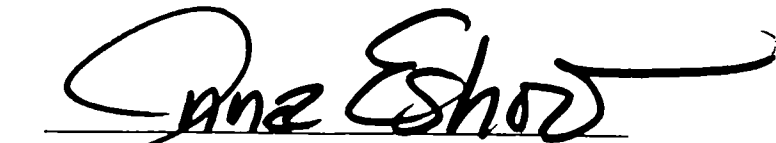
John W. Olver
John W. Olver, M.C.

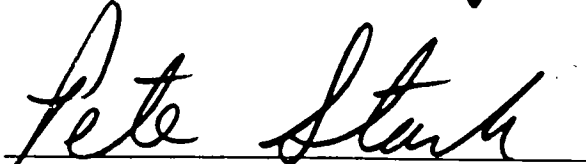
Maurice D. Hinchey
Maurice D. Hinchey, M.C.

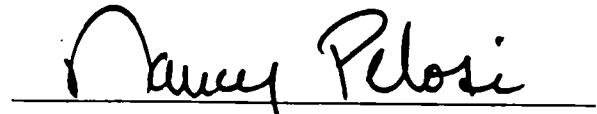
Thomas H. Andrews
Thomas H. Andrews, M.C.

Jack Reed
Jack Reed, M.C.

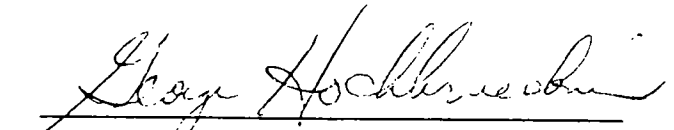

Carolyn B. Maloney, M.C.

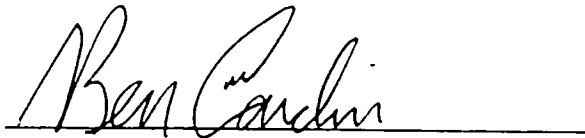

Anna G. Eshoo, M.C.

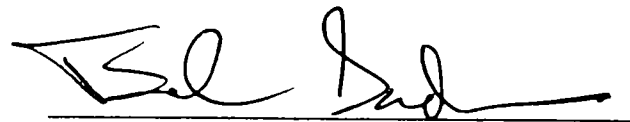

Pete Stark, M.C.

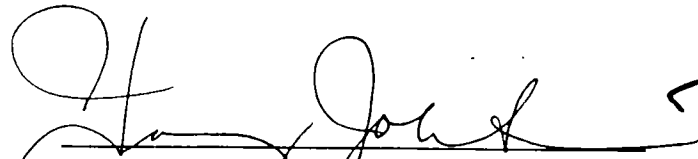

Nancy Pelosi, M.C.

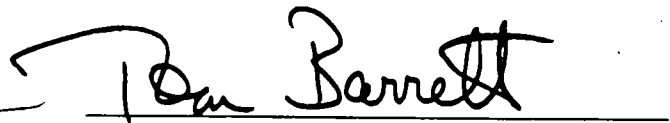

Arthur Ravenel, M.C.

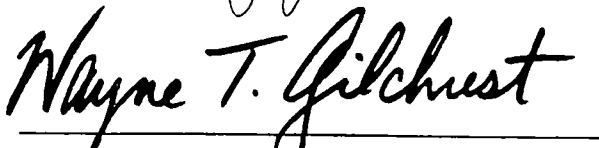

George J. Hochbrueckner, M.C.


Benjamin L. Cardin, M.C.

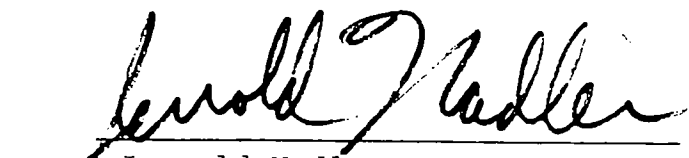

Bernard Sanders, M.C.


Harry Johnston, M.C.

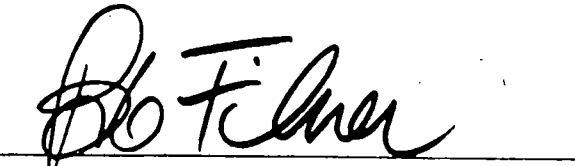

Thomas M. Barrett, M.C.

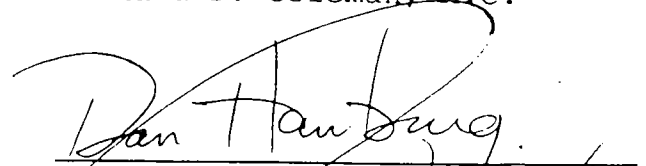

Wayne T. Gilchrest, M.C.

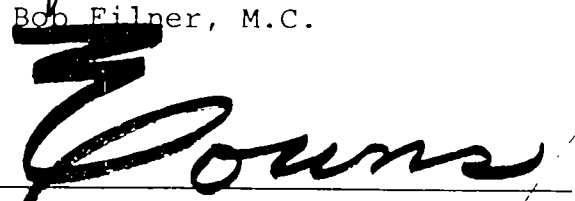

Lynn Schenk, M.C.

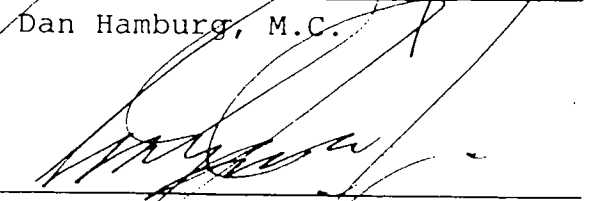

Jerrold Nadler, M.C.


Ronald D. Coleman, M.C.

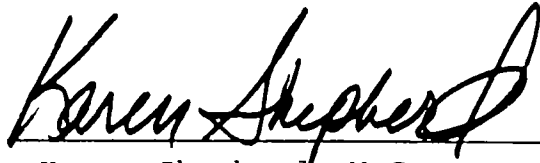

Bob Filner, M.C.

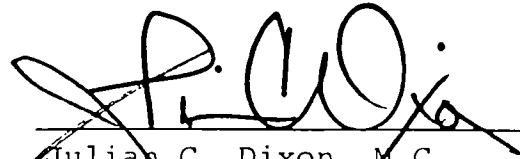

Dan Hamburg, M.C.


Edolphus Towns, M.C.


Andrew Jacobs, Jr., M.C.


Lynn C. Woolsey, M.C.


Karen Shepherd, M.C.


Julian C. Dixon, M.C.