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MEMORANDUM

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

F { *Environ*
Nat'l Serv }

July 20, 1993

TO: Tom O'Donnell

CC: Laura Tyson
Joe Stiglitz

FROM: Jonathan Wiener *fw*

SUBJECT: **National Service: Co-chairing the working group on Environment**

As you know, earlier this spring Laura Tyson suggested to Eli Segal that I might help his office in developing the National Service program. I have just been asked to organize a specific piece of the National Service effort: the Environment Working Group for the Program Development Group.

As you know, I am deeply committed to the success of national service, and I would very much like to take on this short-term task. In the past I have helped organize several community service activities, including "City Year for a Day" and "Class Act" in Boston and the "D.C. Servathon" in Washington. Organizing a service program for environmental progress would be a natural and exciting outgrowth of both this experience and my current work on environmental matters at CEA.

The President's National Service Trust Act (currently moving ahead on the Hill) is one of the Administration's defining priorities. The Act will offer grants to fund service activities in four core areas: Human Needs, Public Safety, Education, and Environment.

Eli Segal has established the Program Development Group to bring substance and dialogue to these priority areas. Each of the four Working Groups is charged with sketching out criteria for successful service programs in its area, in part through early input from groups active in the area; and with communicating the criteria to community service groups so that they can prepare successful proposals for effective service programs. This outreach and technical assistance will be critical to ensuring that service programs actually fulfill the programmatic goals of the National Service Trust Act, giving life to its vision.

Shirley Sagawa (Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and a chief author of the President's legislation) and Susan Stroud (Office of National Service) have asked me to chair or co-chair the Environment Working Group. The chairs of the other working groups are: Human Needs -- Peter

Edelman, Counselor to the Secretary of HHS; Public Safety -- Rana Sampson, DPC; Education -- Ray Cortines, Dept. of Education.

Running this group would involve a modest fraction of my time, beginning now and gaining steam after the Climate Action Plan is completed. I would have staff support from ONS and DPC. My task would be to conduct a series of meetings with environmental groups (and community service groups already active in environmental efforts) to alert them to the opportunity of national service and to gain their advice on how service could best meet environmental needs; develop technical assistance materials to use in educating potential grant applicants; and develop an outreach strategy for full-scale contact of all relevant groups. After the legislation is enacted in September or October and my time at CEA ends, this preparatory work would enable the new Corporation for National Service (to be created by the legislation) to write regulations embodying the draft criteria for successful service programs, and to conduct the full-scale outreach effort. The fruits of this effort will be viable, informed and innovative grant proposals submitted to the Corporation early next spring, bringing vitality and demonstrated results to the vision of National Service.