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[260919] [Hanford Reach]

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January 1998

President William J. Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Subject: Protection of the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River

Dear Mr. President:

File _____

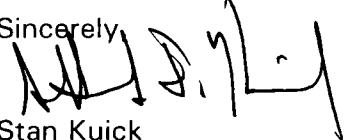
I am writing you about the battle taking place in my part of America over the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River in eastern Washington State. The Hanford Reach is the last free flowing stretch of the Columbia River, and home to the largest population of spawning salmon outside Alaska as well as multitudes of wildlife including mule deer, coyotes, white pelicans, and great blue herons. Around here we just call it "The Reach". It is a beautiful area and I spend much of my summer weekends there boating and fishing.

I urge you to support bills currently in Congress, S.200 and HR 1477, to make this area a Recreational Wild and Scenic River and give control of the Reach to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Unfortunately, our local politicians, who are mostly Republican, do not favor these bills, and are trying to introduce legislation to give control of the Reach to local governments and agricultural interests. Mr. President, all of us who care about the Reach and environmental issues know that this means the Reach will be developed. The Reach is the ecological jewel of our arid region. We simply must protect it. Besides, several polls in our area have demonstrated overwhelming support among our citizens for preservation and federal control of this area, but our representatives are not listening. I would even urge you to consider an executive order on this matter, as you have done in the past.

~~I would like to invite you to see this area for yourself.~~ I have a nice large jet powered boat which was designed for the shallow waters of the Reach. Since the Reach is largely inaccessible by car, the best way to see this 50 mile stretch of river is by boat. I will even let you drive the boat (most people find it thrilling). There's even room for a few security guys. If you like, we could even go fishing for king salmon or huge sturgeon. I have enclosed some pictures of the Reach and it's activities for your perusal.

I have taken foreign visitors from crowded countries like Germany and Japan to this area, and they are always impressed. What impresses them, I think, is that America has the foresight to preserve areas like this, which their countries did not do. It's one of the things that makes us great in their eyes. I would also like our children to be able to have this experience, and maybe catch a salmon or see a white pelican up close.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Stan Kuick
2356 Ferndale Ave, Richland, WA 99352

Ph. 509-375-4883

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
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Comments:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 16, 1998

Mr. Stan Kuick
2356 Ferndale Avenue
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Kuick:

On behalf of President Clinton, thank you for inviting the President to visit the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River in Washington. The President has asked me to convey his appreciation for your thoughtful invitation.

The White House is currently unable to confirm the President's availability. Please know that you will be contacted should the President's schedule permit the White House to accept your request.

Once again, thank you for contacting the White House.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie S. Streett", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Stephanie S. Streett
Assistant to the President
Director of Presidential Scheduling

SSS/mxw

