

2006-0482-F  
OPEN - Box 1 of 1

CLINTON PRESIDENTIAL RECORDS  
WHORM-SUBJECT FILE-GENERAL

PA

[ 203775 ]

[ OAI ID 14088 ]



# FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records  
Subgroup/Office of Origin: Records Management - SUBJECT FILE  
Series/Staff Member:  
Subseries:

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OA/ID Number: 14088  
Scan ID: 203775  
Document Number:

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Folder Title:  
PA

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	86	1	7	1



EH  
August 15, 1997

203775  
PA  
Mr. John H. Adams  
Mr. Larry Rockefeller  
Mr. Henry L. Diamond  
Mr. Patrick F. Noonan  
American Conservation Association, Inc.  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your letter regarding increased funding for land acquisitions in national, state, and local parks. I regret the delay in response, but your letter was misplaced and only recently reached my desk.

I appreciate your support for all of our parks -- from the "crown jewels" to the lesser known urban and wildland parks -- which many consider to represent "the best idea America ever had." As you are aware, my Administration insisted during negotiations with Congress on the bipartisan balanced budget agreement that an additional \$700 million be provided for priority federal land acquisitions and exchanges. Secretary Babbitt and Secretary Glickman are leading the formulation of the Administration's recommendations on priority projects for special funding with these new funds. We will give serious consideration in our final deliberations to your views on the need for state funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

With regard to your recommendation of a review of America's system of parks to determine their needs and how they can best be addressed, the National Park Service is developing, with significant public input, a strategic plan and goals under the auspices of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993. In addition, Congress recently reauthorized the National Park System Advisory Board to ensure that you and other leading park advocates have the opportunity to have input in the park management decision-making process. The NPS will closely review your recommendations as it considers the new roles and responsibilities of the reauthorized Advisory Board.

Again, thank you for sharing your views and for your continuing support of our parks.

Sincerely,

A  
**BILL CLINTON**

BC/TFS/RSM/RLM/JAD/JAD/emu-efr-efr-efr  
(8.adams.jh)

(Corres. #3629774)

cc: Dionne Hardy, 249

RETURN TO LYNN CUTLER ROOM 106 FOR DISPATCH

WHcc:

The Honorable Victor Ashe

Mayor of Knoxville

Post Office Box 1631

Knoxville, Tennessee 37901

Referred to Tim D. for dispatch



DRAFT OF BC LETTER

INITIALS: BC / tfs /

DRAFT DATE / LETTER DATE: Aug 12 1997 /

CLEAR WITH:

WHCC:

DOCUMENT TITLE: /slr/p/adams.john.tfs

CORRESPONDENCE #: 3629774

CC: Dionne Hardy, OMB, 249  
OEOB

Lynn Cutler, IGA, 106 OEOB

whCC: Mayor Victor Ashe

P.O. Box 1631

Knoxville, Tennessee 37901

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:

Mr. John H. Adams,  
Mr. Larry Rockefeller, Mr. Henry L. Diamond,  
Mr. Patrick F. Noonan  
American Conservation Association, Inc.  
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New York, New York 10112

APPROVAL/ENCLOSURES/SPECIAL INSTR:

This is VERY old. I forwarded this to OMB in February and asked them to respond per CEQ. However, a letter never went out to Adams, et. al. Now the mayor of Knoxville is asking about the letter. IGA said the letter should be POTUS sig. for pol. reasons. Draft is from OMB/Energy, Natural Resources, and Environment Division and cleared by Lynn Cutler.

Dear John:

*Friends*  
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AUG 12 1997



for special funding with the ~~new funds obtained in the BBA~~. We will give serious consideration in our final deliberations to your views on the need for state-side funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

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Again, thank you for your views and your continuing support for our parks.



Tracy F. Sisser

07/14/97 03:32:50 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Dionne Hardy/OMB/EOP

cc: Peter G. Umhofer/CEQ/EOP, James A. Dorskind/WHO/EOP

Subject: letter to the American Conservation Association

Dionne -

I've been asked about a letter from the **American Conservation Association** signed by **John H. Adams, Harry L. Diamond, Patrick F. Noonan, and Larry Rockefeller** regarding the national park system. The incoming is dated **1/31/97**. Has this gone out yet? I know that I inquired about this letter a couple of times a few months ago, and refaxed it to you for processing. Please let me know what the outcome on this was as soon as possible. (IGA is following up on it and would like to know if the letter ever went out.)

Thanks.

Tracy



Tracy F. Sisser

08/05/97 03:01:04 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: letter re: American Conservation Association

Lynn -

I finally got the draft from OMB for the letter from the American Conservation Association, which was forwarded by Mayor Ashe. Please let me know if you have any problems with the text. If not, I will send it for processing. Mayor Ashe will receive a copy of the letter.

Thanks very much for your patience. - Tracy



PARKS.WP Text is below

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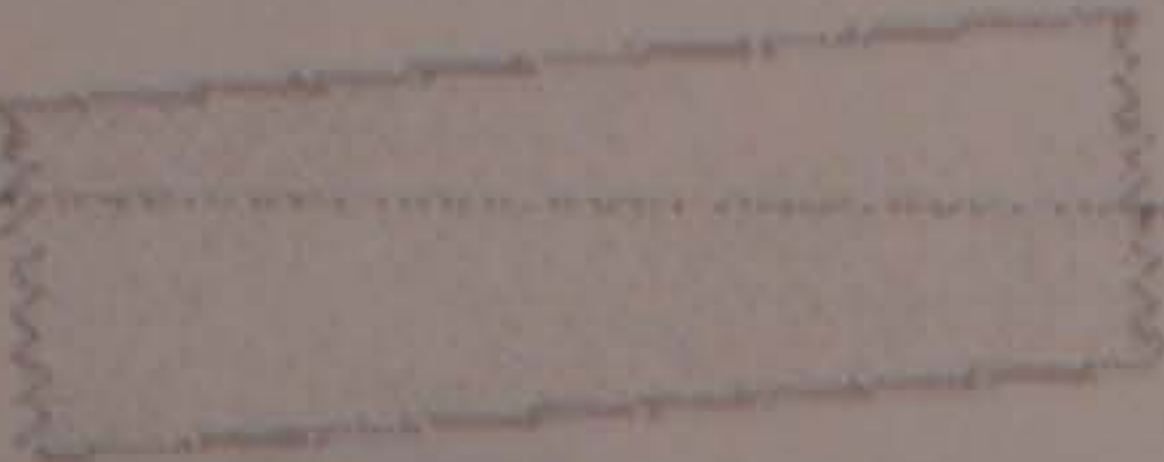


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Again, thank you for your views and your continuing support for our parks.

BC




  
Lynn G. Cutler

08/05/97 03:11:58 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Tracy F. Sisser/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: letter re: American Conservation Association 

Fabulous--go with it--and please get me a copy for Mayor Ashe, who has tortured me on this for four months.




● ● ● ● ●  
● Tracy F. Sisser

08/05/97 10:46:01 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Dionne Hardy/OMB/EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: Draft response to Adams letter 

Thanks, Dionne. I'll let you know if IGA has any questions or concerns.

Tracy



**DIONNE  
HARDY**

08/05/97 10:31:25 AM



Record Type: Record

To: Tracy F. Sisser/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Draft response to Adams letter

GOOD MORNING TRACY:

per the below mentioned email from the NRD division, attached is the draft language you requested for the adams letter. if you have further questions, please call.

----- Forwarded by Dionne Hardy/OMB/EOP on 08/05/97 10:30 AM -----



J C. Crutchfield

08/05/97 10:23:00 AM



Record Type: Record

To: Dionne Hardy/OMB/EOP

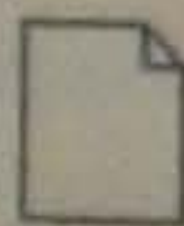
cc: Janet E. Irwin/OMB/EOP, Marvis G. Olfus/OMB/EOP

Subject: Draft response to Adams letter

Attached is a draft response to the Adams letter, incorporating Ron Cogswell's comments.

Dionne advises that WH Correspondence asked for draft language, but did not specify who would be the signatory. Dionne, the letter includes the phrase "He asked me to respond for him" so that the letter could be sent by Raines, the VP, or some other party.

Hope this meets your needs. Thanks.



ADAMS.AC



Tracy F. Sisser

07/30/97 02:38:42 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP

cc:

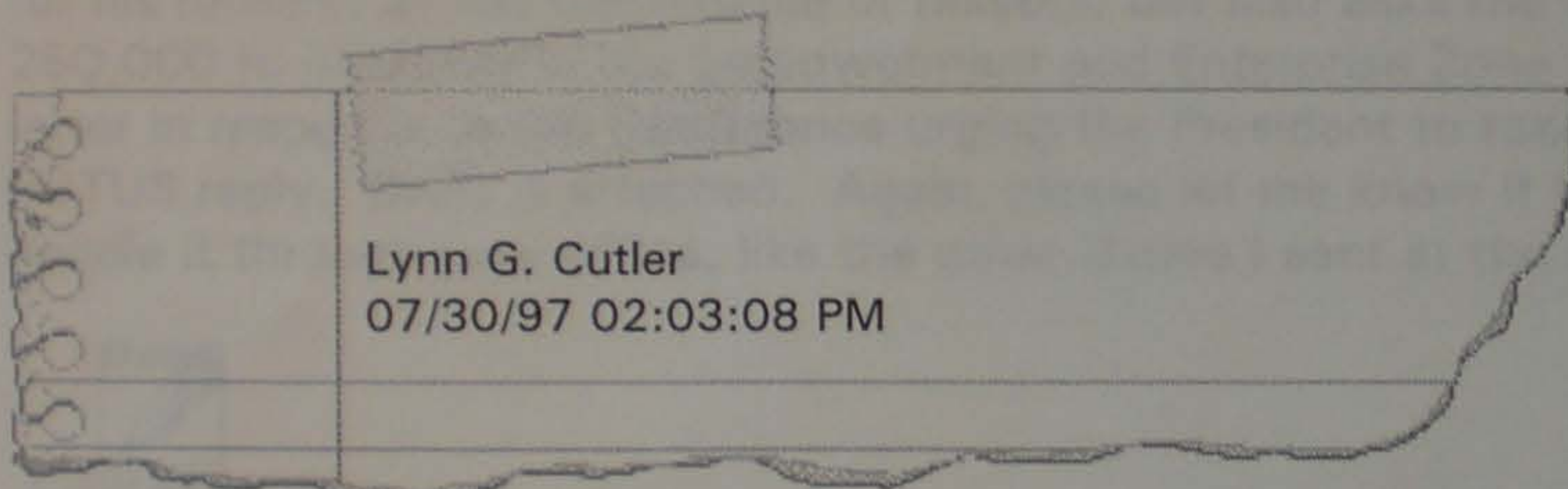
Subject: Re: correspondence

OK - OMB will provide draft language for *POTUS* sig. I'll run it by you when it comes back. (Should be back today or tomorrow.)

I'll forward the letter from Mayor Finkbeiner to you. Undoubtedly, the President will have the opportunity to correspond with the mayor some time in the near future.

Thanks, Tracy.


----- Forwarded by Tracy F. Sisser/WHO/EOP on 07/30/97 02:08 PM -----



Record Type: Record

To: Tracy F. Sisser/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: correspondence 

I know it's really late to have the President sign the letter on the rivers, etc., but it would sure help me politically if he could, with a line of apology about the delay. Thanks.

You can do a POTUS letter to Finkbeiner if you want, or I'll do it the way I'm doing the others.



Tracy F. Sisser

07/30/97 12:28:13 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Mona G. Mohib/WHO/EOP  
cc: Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP  
Subject: correspondence

Mona -

1) The message that you got wasn't exactly right - The letter I was inquiring about was from the American Conservation Association, which was forwarded to Lynn Cutler by Mayor Ashe of Knoxville, Tenn. The draft is being prepared by OMB, and I just wanted to know if you/Lynn wanted this to be for the President's signature or for Director Raines' sig. The letter is dated 1-31-97, and it is concerning the state of the national park system. (Perhaps it would be better to send from Raines because it's so old. I had sent the original letter over for OMB response per CEO months ago.) Please let me know what you think.

2) Mayor Finkbeiner of Toledo has sent another letter to the President. He applauds the President for his remarks at the Conference of Mayors, but also asks the President to include cities of 250,000 to 500,000 in the Empowerment and Enterprise Zone programs. Since this is the only letter in response to the Conference urging the President to take action, I thought we could do a POTUS reply. Draft is attached. Again, please let me know if this is ok, or if you would rather handle it through your office, like the other letters I sent at the end of last week.



FINKBEIN.W

Thanks very much for your assistance. Tracy



DG

970131

IBA

L

PRESIDENT CLINTON

PRCLIN

MR. JOHN H. ADAMS

AMERICAN CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION  
INCORPORATED

30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA

NEW YORK

NY 10112

MR. HENRY L. DIAMOND

AMERICAN CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

MR. PATRICK F. NOONAN

AMERICAN CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

MR. LARRY ROCKEFELLER

AMERICAN CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

SUBJECT

URGES PRESIDENT TO REVIEW AMERICA 'S SYSTEM OF  
PARKS TO DETERMINE THEIR NEEDS AND HOW TO  
ADDRESS THEM BY THE FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL

203775

DOCUMENT=

2 OF

26

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2 OF

2

GOVERNMENTS AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

SUBCODE

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ACTION

COBAKE ORG 970204

I0607 \* End of document.

2/20

Reuben:

Everything OKM tracks, they  
Track to Kyle -- Does this look  
familiar to you at all??

This letter had 1 small typo somewhere  
in the earlier incoming; they called  
on our public line mortified there  
was a mistake on a letter to the  
Pres. They insisted on sending a  
"corrected" letter -- This is a dup  
basically --

Jaa



# AMERICAN CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10112

January 31, 1997

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Our parks are in peril but--like Theodore Roosevelt--you have a grand opportunity. That is what leading park advocates who write you this letter believe. We stand ready, along with all Americans who care about parks, to work with you. Strong leadership is essential to saving parks from accelerating threats and deterioration. We look to you--and so does history.

This letter is being written to you by members of the Executive Committee of the American Conservation Association. In order to provide the best advice possible, we convened a group of experienced and knowledgeable people to help us. The group included former Governor and Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus, Knoxville Mayor and former President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Victor Ashe, state natural resource and park leaders, as well as heads of national park and historic organizations. A list of the group is attached.

We address the issue of parks broadly--not only in the sense of traditional national, state, and local parks, but also in terms to include greenways, open space, and historical and cultural resources. Those resources are part of what defines the American character, and our failure to cherish these places is a reflection on that character.

The problems are very real. The basic federal program to help states and local governments acquire and develop their park systems, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, has provided little or no assistance for almost a decade. This is a shortsighted breach of the promise made to the American people when the outer continental shelf oil drilling revenues were dedicated to the Fund. And how can it be that the state assistance program under the Fund, which has supported the creation of thousands of local parks and recreational facilities, may receive no funding at all in the Administration's FY98 budget request? The national park system has long suffered from under-funding of its basic mission. There is a backlog of several billion dollars needed for significant restoration and resource protection.

The result is that not only the national park system but state and local park systems do not perform the role in American life they should. There is an ominous problem--visitation has soared



and budgets have fallen. The results are loss of urban open space, reduction of scarce wildlife habitat, loss of much needed outdoor healthy recreation opportunities for young people with a resulting increase in crime and despair.

We believe that despite the very stringent budget constraints which the nation faces, there is now a window of opportunity to help restore and expand a national system of parks. Every measure of public opinion indicates that the environment is high on the list of public priorities. In particular, parks are cherished. The recent victories of bond issues to buy additional lands in New York, California, and other states support this conclusion. The recent creation of the Americans for our Heritage and Recreation advocacy group at Asilomar, California brings together for the first time national, state and local grassroots organizations in support for funding for national and local parks through the Land and Water Fund and other measures. The growth and activity of local land trusts, which now number well over 1,100 across the country, also bespeaks the public concern and interest.

Many, if not most, of the needed tools are in place. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, if fully appropriated, can be an effective mechanism of recycling one publicly owned nonrenewable resource--offshore oil--into another much needed one--parks. The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act has been and should continue to be an extremely important source of support for parks associated with transportation. The Department of Agriculture has important conservation programs, as does the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The challenge is to focus and make the most of these tools to save America's endangered system of parks.

Parks should be a truly bipartisan issue. Many Republicans in Congress appear willing to work with the Administration. Senator Murkowski has announced that the Senate Resources Committee will be holding workshops and hearings on parks issues later this year, Speaker Gingrich is a potential ally for the efforts of Americans for our Heritage and Recreation. Many Republicans were on record in support of state and local environmental protection measures decided last November.

Specifically, we urge you to initiate a review of America's system of parks to determine what the needs are and how they can best be addressed not only by the federal government but by state and local governments and private organizations as well. We urge that you create a government-wide task force to review the crisis and make recommendations to you and to the Congress. We envision this to be a short-term effort lasting no longer than six months in time for the next federal budget cycle. Data is readily available from existing organizations, government agencies, and past reviews. We urge that this task force include participation other levels of government and the public through a series of hearings held in regions across the country. The federal task force should be led by the Secretary of the Interior but should include other federal



The Honorable William J. Clinton

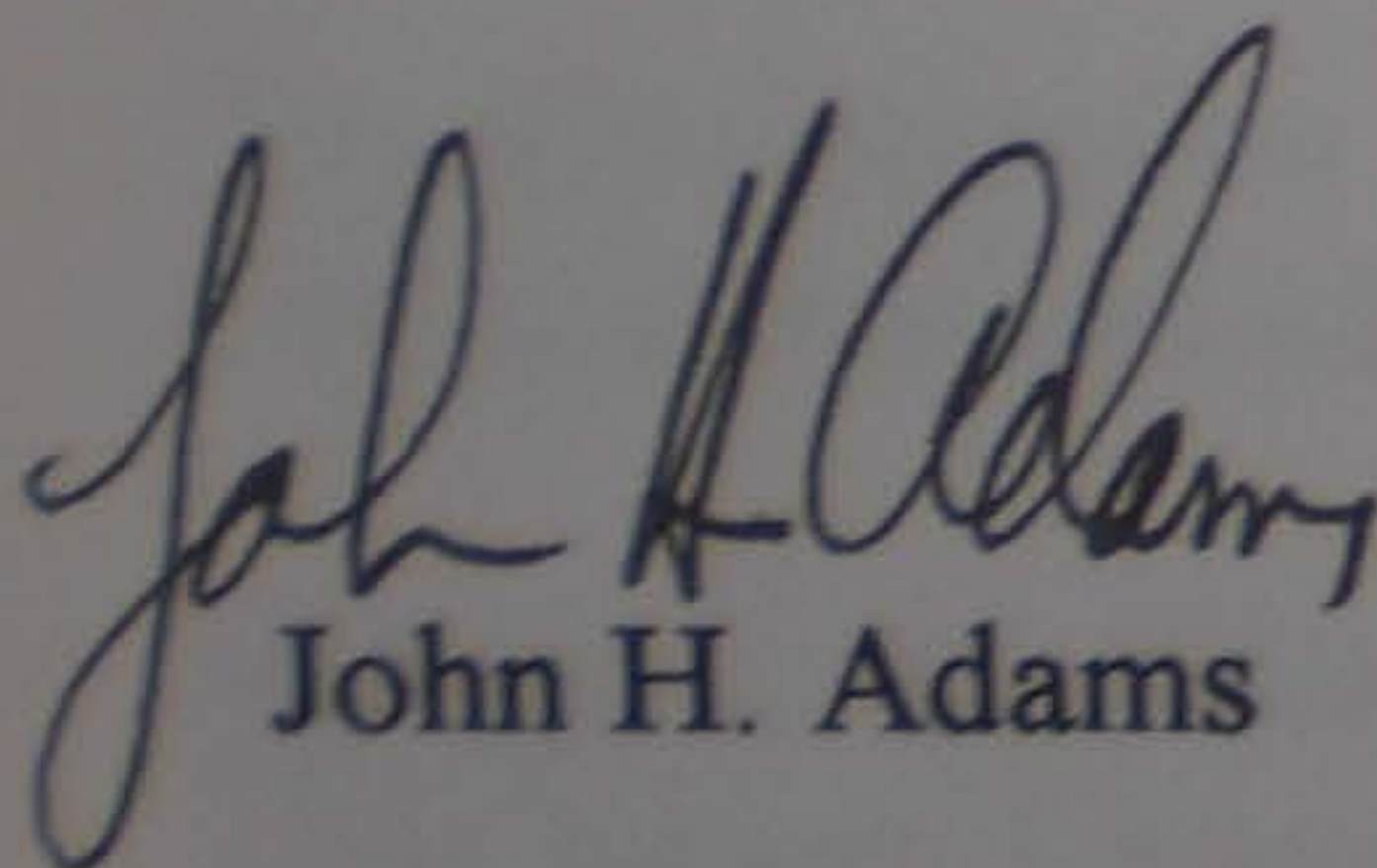
January 31, 1997

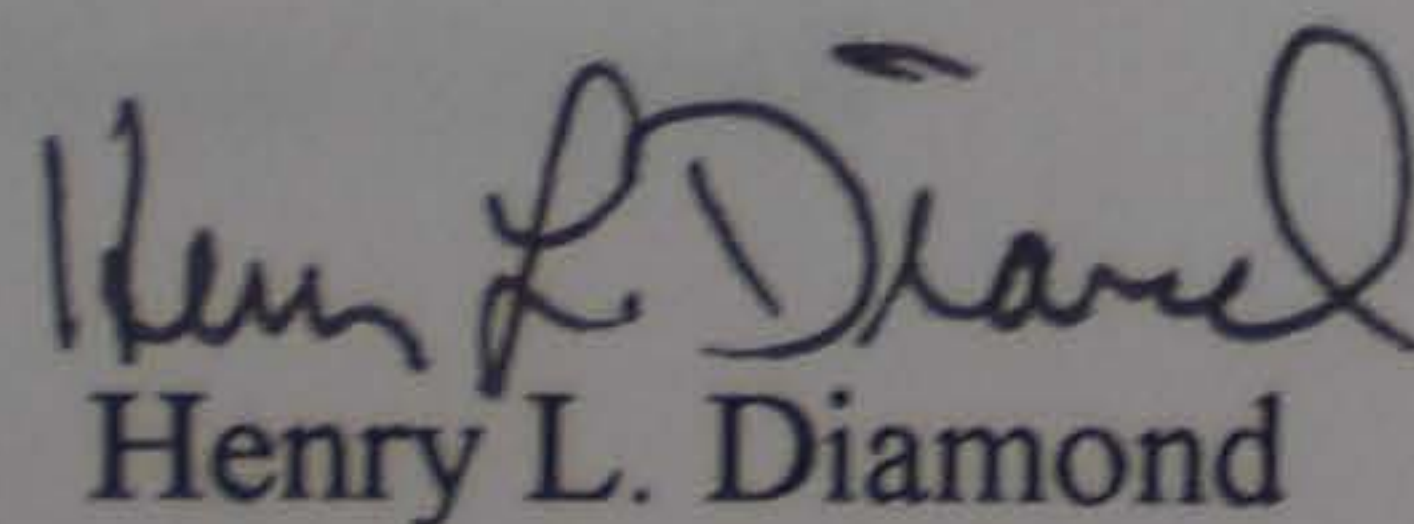
Page 3

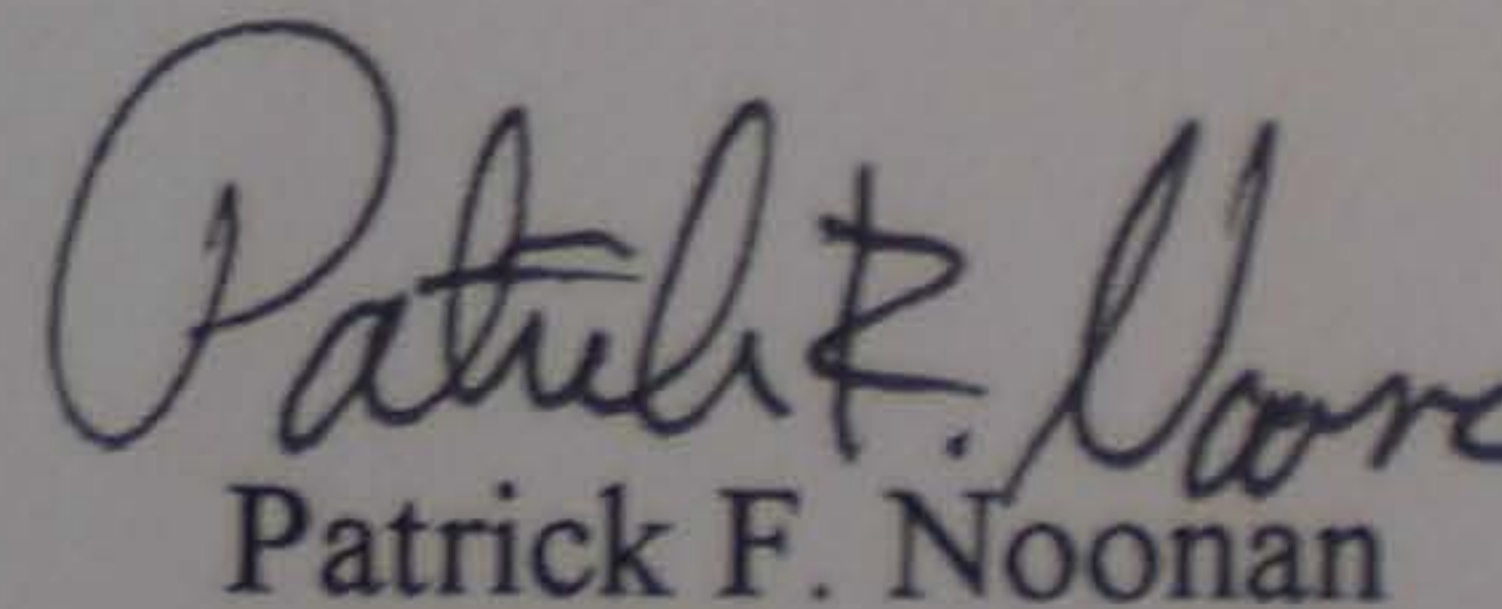
departments that have a strong, though often under-recognized, role in providing park opportunities such as the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Defense, and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

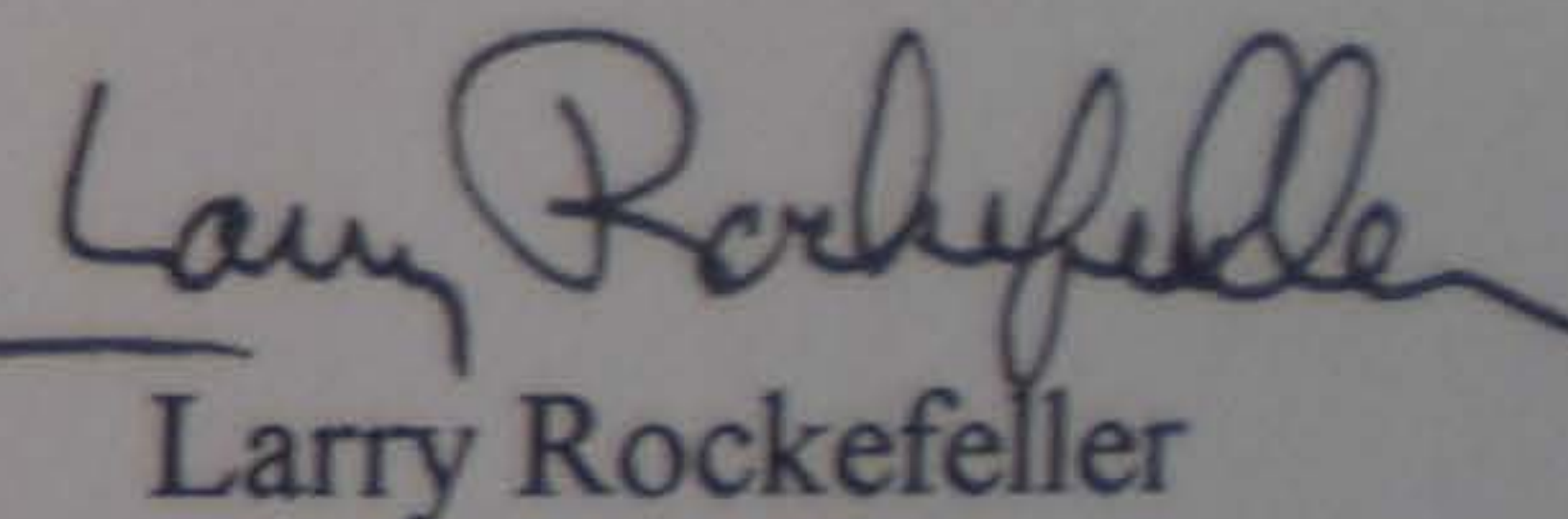
This effort might well be initiated by a Presidential message on Earth Day in April or sooner on the importance of parks in our national life and the commitment of your administration to assure that they can play the role they must. We, of course, stand ready to assist you in this effort in any way you or your associates would find useful. We will be pleased to meet with you or with whomever you direct.

Sincerely,

  
John H. Adams

  
Henry L. Diamond

  
Patrick F. Noonan

  
Larry Rockefeller



List of Participants  
January 17, 1997

Cecil Andrus  
Andrus Center for Public Policy  
at Boise State University

Victor Ashe  
Mayor, City of Knoxville

Dan Beard  
National Audubon Society

Frances Beinecke  
Natural Resources Defense Council

Robert L. Bendick, Jr.  
The Nature Conservancy

Steve Blackmer  
Appalachian Mountain Club

Chuck Clusen  
Natural Resources Defense Council

Henry L. Diamond  
Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.

Gilbert M. Grosvenor  
Chairman, National Geographic Society

Jean W. Hocker  
President, Land Trust Alliance

Fred I. Kent, III  
President, Project for Public Spaces, Inc.

Fran P. Mainella  
Director, Division of Recreation and Parks  
State of Florida  
Chairman, National Parks and Recreation Association



Richard Moe

President, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Donald W. Murphy

Director, California Department of Parks and Recreation

Patrick F. Noonan

Chairman, The Conservation Fund

Paul C. Pritchard

President, National Parks and Conservation Association

Larry Rockefeller

Natural Resources Defense Council

Douglas P. Wheeler

Secretary, The Resources Agency of California



2006 - 0482 - F  
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S	86	1	7	1



EH

203775  
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DRAFT DATE / LETTER DATE: Aug 12 1997 /

CORRESPONDENCE #: 3629774

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whCC: Mayor Victor Ashe  
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Tracy F. Sisser

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cc:

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As you are aware, my Administration insisted during negotiations with Congress on the Bipartisan Balanced Budget Agreement that an additional \$700 million be provided for priority federal land acquisitions and exchanges. Secretary Babbitt and Secretary Glickman are co-chairing the formulation of the Administration's recommendations on priority projects for special funding with the new funds obtained in the BBA. We will give serious consideration in our final deliberations to your views on the need for state-side funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Your letter also recommends a review of America's system of parks to determine what the needs are and how they can best be addressed. In part, the National Park Service (NPS) is responding to this recommendation by developing, with significant public input, a strategic plan and goals under the auspices of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993. In addition, Congress recently reauthorized the National Park System Advisory Board to ensure that

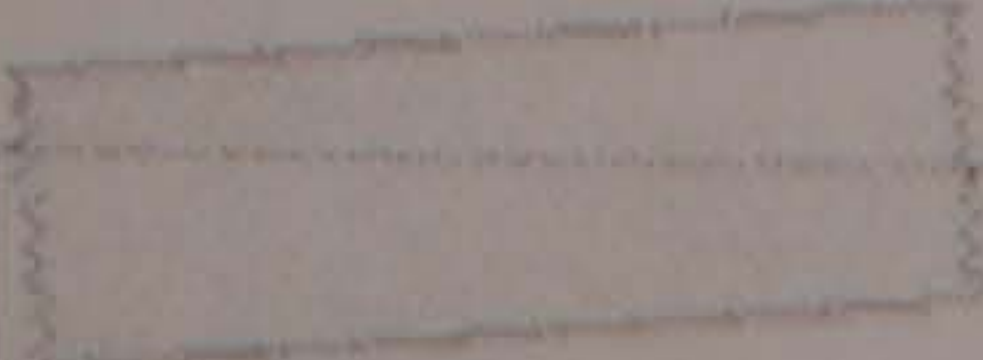


you and other leading park advocates have the opportunity to participate in park management decisions. The NPS will closely review your recommendations as it considers the new roles and responsibilities of the reauthorized Advisory Board.

Again, thank you for your views and your continuing support for our parks.

BC




  
Lynn G. Cutler  
08/05/97 03:11:58 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Tracy F. Sisser/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: letter re: American Conservation Association 

Fabulous--go with it--and please get me a copy for Mayor Ashe, who has tortured me on this for four months.




● ● ● ● ●  
● Tracy F. Sisser

08/05/97 10:46:01 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Dionne Hardy/OMB/EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: Draft response to Adams letter 

Thanks, Dionne. I'll let you know if IGA has any questions or concerns.

Tracy



**DIONNE  
HARDY**

08/05/97 10:31:25 AM



Record Type: Record

To: Tracy F. Sisser/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Draft response to Adams letter

GOOD MORNING TRACY:

per the below mentioned email from the NRD division, attached is the draft language you requested for the adams letter. if you have further questions, please call.

----- Forwarded by Dionne Hardy/OMB/EOP on 08/05/97 10:30 AM -----



J C. Crutchfield

08/05/97 10:23:00 AM



Record Type: Record

To: Dionne Hardy/OMB/EOP

cc: Janet E. Irwin/OMB/EOP, Marvis G. Olfus/OMB/EOP

Subject: Draft response to Adams letter

Attached is a draft response to the Adams letter, incorporating Ron Cogswell's comments.

Dionne advises that WH Correspondence asked for draft language, but did not specify who would be the signatory. Dionne, the letter includes the phrase "He asked me to respond for him" so that the letter could be sent by Raines, the VP, or some other party.

Hope this meets your needs. Thanks.



ADAMS.AC



Tracy F. Sisser

07/30/97 02:38:42 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: correspondence

OK - OMB will provide draft language for *POTUS* sig. I'll run it by you when it comes back. (Should be back today or tomorrow.)

I'll forward the letter from Mayor Finkbeiner to you. Undoubtedly, the President will have the opportunity to correspond with the mayor some time in the near future.

Thanks, Tracy.


----- Forwarded by Tracy F. Sisser/WHO/EOP on 07/30/97 02:08 PM -----

Lynn G. Cutler  
07/30/97 02:03:08 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Tracy F. Sisser/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: correspondence 

I know it's really late to have the President sign the letter on the rivers, etc., but it would sure help me politically if he could, with a line of apology about the delay. Thanks.

You can do a POTUS letter to Finkbeiner if you want, or I'll do it the way I'm doing the others.



Tracy F. Sisser

07/30/97 12:28:13 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Mona G. Mohib/WHO/EOP

cc: Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP

Subject: correspondence

Mona -

1) The message that you got wasn't exactly right - The letter I was inquiring about was from the American Conservation Association, which was forwarded to Lynn Cutler by Mayor Ashe of Knoxville, Tenn. The draft is being prepared by OMB, and I just wanted to know if you/Lynn wanted this to be for the President's signature or for Director Raines' sig. The letter is dated 1-31-97, and it is concerning the state of the national park system. (Perhaps it would be better to send from Raines because it's so old. I had sent the original letter over for OMB response per CEQ months ago.) Please let me know what you think.

2) Mayor Finkbeiner of Toledo has sent another letter to the President. He applauds the President for his remarks at the Conference of Mayors, but also asks the President to include cities of 250,000 to 500,000 in the Empowerment and Enterprise Zone programs. Since this is the only letter in response to the Conference urging the President to take action, I thought we could do a POTUS reply. Draft is attached. Again, please let me know if this is ok, or if you would rather handle it through your office, like the other letters I sent at the end of last week.



FINKBEIN.W

Thanks very much for your assistance. Tracy



DG

970131

IBA

L

PRESIDENT CLINTON

PRCLIN

MR. JOHN H. ADAMS

AMERICAN CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

INCORPORATED

30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA

NEW YORK

NY 10112

MR. HENRY L. DIAMOND

AMERICAN CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

MR. PATRICK F. NOONAN

AMERICAN CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

MR. LARRY ROCKEFELLER

AMERICAN CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

SUBJECT URGES PRESIDENT TO REVIEW AMERICA 'S SYSTEM OF

PARKS TO DETERMINE THEIR NEEDS AND HOW TO

ADDRESS THEM BY THE FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL

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I0607 \* End of document.

2/20

Reuben:

Everything OKM tracks, they  
 track to Kyle -- Does this look  
 familiar to you at all??

This letter had 1 small typo somewhere  
 in the earlier incoming; they called  
 on our public line mortified there  
 was a mistake on a letter to the  
 Pres. They insisted on sending a  
 "corrected" letter -- This is a dup  
 basecall, -

Jaa



# AMERICAN CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10112

January 31, 1997

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Our parks are in peril but--like Theodore Roosevelt--you have a grand opportunity. That is what leading park advocates who write you this letter believe. We stand ready, along with all Americans who care about parks, to work with you. Strong leadership is essential to saving parks from accelerating threats and deterioration. We look to you--and so does history.

This letter is being written to you by members of the Executive Committee of the American Conservation Association. In order to provide the best advice possible, we convened a group of experienced and knowledgeable people to help us. The group included former Governor and Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus, Knoxville Mayor and former President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Victor Ashe, state natural resource and park leaders, as well as heads of national park and historic organizations. A list of the group is attached.

We address the issue of parks broadly--not only in the sense of traditional national, state, and local parks, but also in terms to include greenways, open space, and historical and cultural resources. Those resources are part of what defines the American character, and our failure to cherish these places is a reflection on that character.

The problems are very real. The basic federal program to help states and local governments acquire and develop their park systems, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, has provided little or no assistance for almost a decade. This is a shortsighted breach of the promise made to the American people when the outer continental shelf oil drilling revenues were dedicated to the Fund. And how can it be that the state assistance program under the Fund, which has supported the creation of thousands of local parks and recreational facilities, may receive no funding at all in the Administration's FY98 budget request? The national park system has long suffered from under-funding of its basic mission. There is a backlog of several billion dollars needed for significant restoration and resource protection.

The result is that not only the national park system but state and local park systems do not perform the role in American life they should. There is an ominous problem--visitation has soared



and budgets have fallen. The results are loss of urban open space, reduction of scarce wildlife habitat, loss of much needed outdoor healthy recreation opportunities for young people with a resulting increase in crime and despair.

We believe that despite the very stringent budget constraints which the nation faces, there is now a window of opportunity to help restore and expand a national system of parks. Every measure of public opinion indicates that the environment is high on the list of public priorities. In particular, parks are cherished. The recent victories of bond issues to buy additional lands in New York, California, and other states support this conclusion. The recent creation of the Americans for our Heritage and Recreation advocacy group at Asilomar, California brings together for the first time national, state and local grassroots organizations in support for funding for national and local parks through the Land and Water Fund and other measures. The growth and activity of local land trusts, which now number well over 1,100 across the country, also bespeaks the public concern and interest.

Many, if not most, of the needed tools are in place. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, if fully appropriated, can be an effective mechanism of recycling one publicly owned nonrenewable resource--offshore oil--into another much needed one--parks. The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act has been and should continue to be an extremely important source of support for parks associated with transportation. The Department of Agriculture has important conservation programs, as does the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The challenge is to focus and make the most of these tools to save America's endangered system of parks.

Parks should be a truly bipartisan issue. Many Republicans in Congress appear willing to work with the Administration. Senator Murkowski has announced that the Senate Resources Committee will be holding workshops and hearings on parks issues later this year, Speaker Gingrich is a potential ally for the efforts of Americans for our Heritage and Recreation. Many Republicans were on record in support of state and local environmental protection measures decided last November.

Specifically, we urge you to initiate a review of America's system of parks to determine what the needs are and how they can best be addressed not only by the federal government but by state and local governments and private organizations as well. We urge that you create a government-wide task force to review the crisis and make recommendations to you and to the Congress. We envision this to be a short-term effort lasting no longer than six months in time for the next federal budget cycle. Data is readily available from existing organizations, government agencies, and past reviews. We urge that this task force include participation other levels of government and the public through a series of hearings held in regions across the country. The federal task force should be led by the Secretary of the Interior but should include other federal

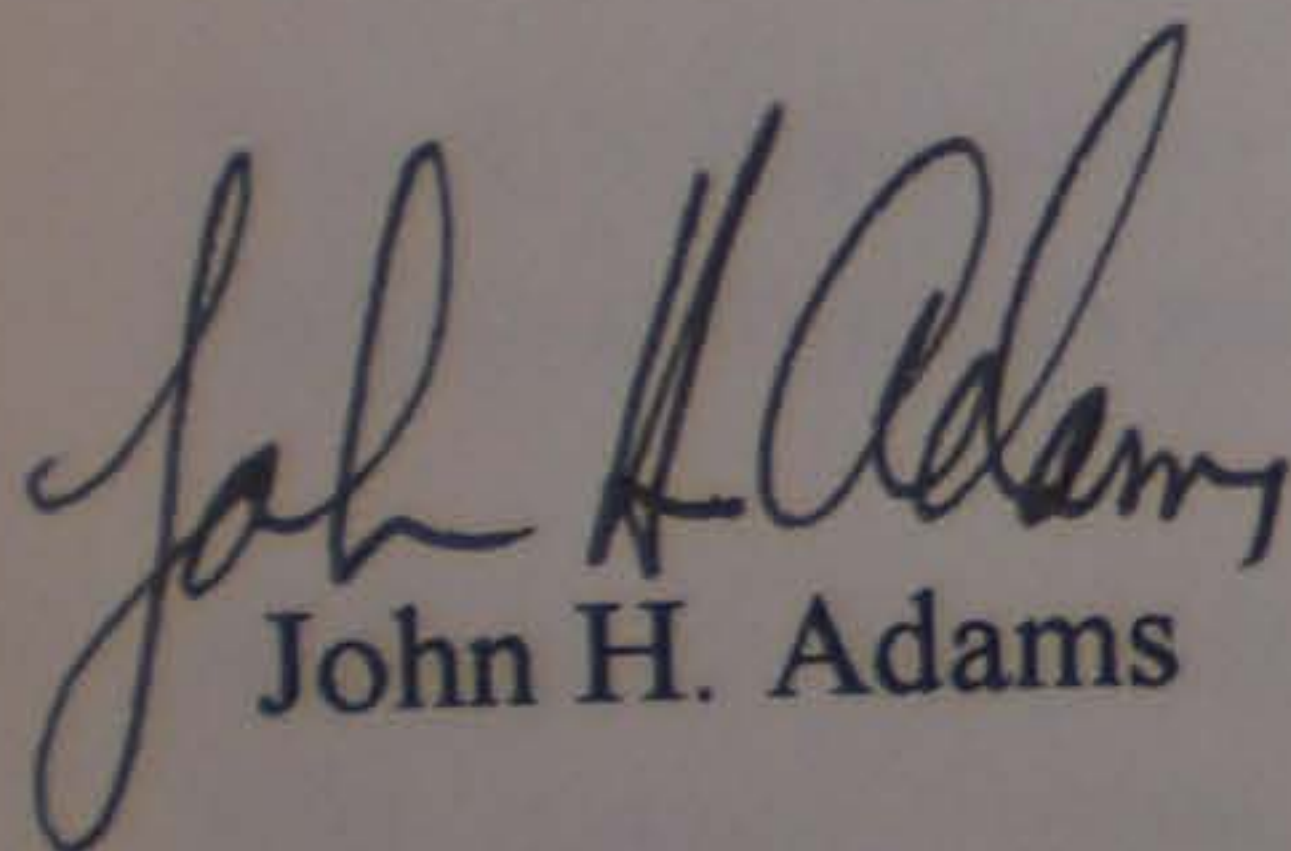


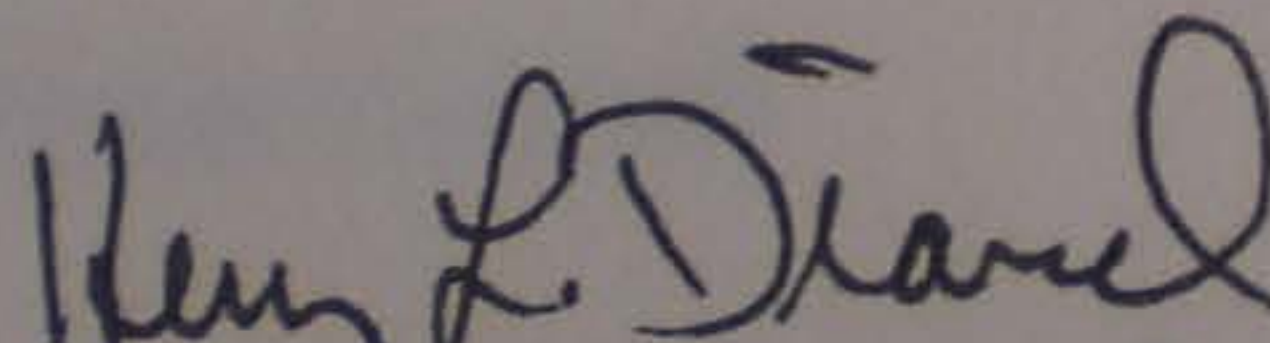
The Honorable William J. Clinton  
January 31, 1997  
Page 3

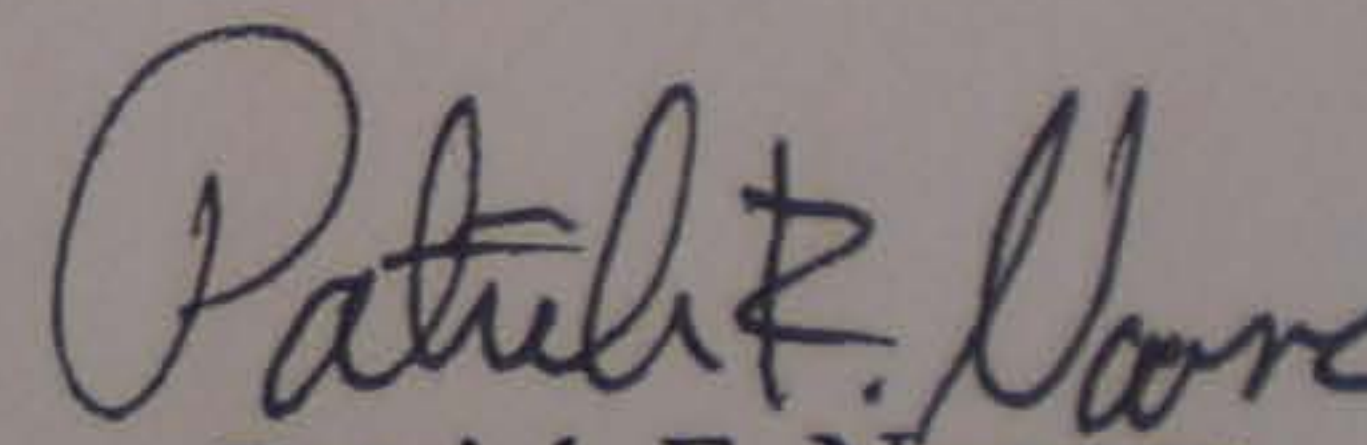
departments that have a strong, though often under-recognized, role in providing park opportunities such as the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Defense, and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

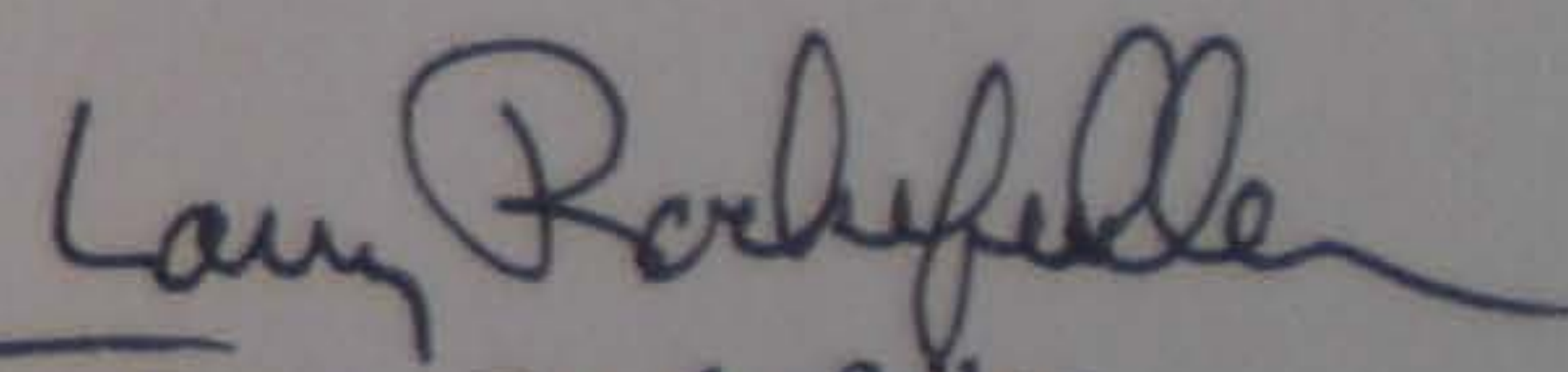
This effort might well be initiated by a Presidential message on Earth Day in April or sooner on the importance of parks in our national life and the commitment of your administration to assure that they can play the role they must. We, of course, stand ready to assist you in this effort in any way you or your associates would find useful. We will be pleased to meet with you or with whomever you direct.

Sincerely,

  
John H. Adams

  
Henry L. Diamond

  
Patrick F. Noonan

  
Larry Rockefeller



**List of Participants**  
**January 17, 1997**

Cecil Andrus  
Andrus Center for Public Policy  
at Boise State University

Victor Ashe  
Mayor, City of Knoxville

Dan Beard  
National Audubon Society

Frances Beinecke  
Natural Resources Defense Council

Robert L. Bendick, Jr.  
The Nature Conservancy

Steve Blackmer  
Appalachian Mountain Club

Chuck Clusen  
Natural Resources Defense Council

Henry L. Diamond  
Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.

Gilbert M. Grosvenor  
Chairman, National Geographic Society

Jean W. Hocker  
President, Land Trust Alliance

Fred I. Kent, III  
President, Project for Public Spaces, Inc.

Fran P. Mainella  
Director, Division of Recreation and Parks  
State of Florida  
Chairman, National Parks and Recreation Association



Richard Moe

President, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Donald W. Murphy

Director, California Department of Parks and Recreation

Patrick F. Noonan

Chairman, The Conservation Fund

Paul C. Pritchard

President, National Parks and Conservation Association

Larry Rockefeller

Natural Resources Defense Council

Douglas P. Wheeler

Secretary, The Resources Agency of California