

# CAMPAIGN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

September 13, 2007

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiaht  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and  
Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dicks and Representative Tiaht:

On behalf of environmental education organizations, teachers, students, and industry partners throughout the nation, we write to you today to thank you heartily for restoring FY2008 funding to the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Education Division under the National Environmental Education Act. Your Subcommittee has been a terrific champion of environmental education in the past, restoring this funding each year for the past seven years. Your support has been greatly appreciated by all of us and our thousands of constituents around the country.

We were particularly pleased that the House made the important decision to "direct the Agency to apply the formula mandated in the statute to the entire amount provided" in its budget report. This addresses a long standing interest in ensuring that the funds are administered in the most effective and efficient way possible and support the original intent of the Act. We have requested that the Senate recede to the House on the above language in the final appropriations bill.

We were similarly pleased that the Senate chose to "not agree to the budget request to consolidate children's health and environmental education programs". Such a consolidation could make it difficult to keep environmental education spending intact, as well as perhaps create other problems.

We therefore respectfully ask that the House recede to the Senate on the above language in the final appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact James L. Elder, at [elder@FundEE.org](mailto:elder@FundEE.org) or 978-526-7768.

**Co-signatories:**

**Association of Nature Center Administrators** (Tim Sandsmark, President)

**Association of Zoos and Aquariums** (Steve Olson, Director of Government Affairs)

**Campaign for Environmental Literacy** (James Elder, Director)

**Council on Environmental Education** (Josetta Hawthorne, Executive Director)

**Council of Environmental Deans and Directors** (Bruce Coull, President)

**Earth Day Network** (Kathleen Rogers, President)

**Earth Force** (Vince Meldrum, President)

**Ecological Society of America** (Teresa Mourad, Director of Education)

**National Association for Interpretation** (Tim Merriman, Executive Director)

**National Association of Biology Teachers** (Pat Waller, President)

**National Audubon Society** (Judy Braus, Vice President for Education)

**National Council for Science and the Environment** (Peter Saundry, Executive Director)

**National Science Teachers Association** (Jodi Peterson, Director of Legislative Affairs)

**National Wildlife Federation** (Kevin Coyle, Vice President for Education)

**North American Association for Environmental Education** (Brian Day, Executive Director)

**Project Learning Tree/American Forest Foundation** (Kathy McGlaufflin, Senior Vice President)

**Ocean Project** (Bill Mott, Director)

**Second Nature** (Anthony Cortese, President)

cc: The Honorable David Obey, Chair, House Appropriations Committee