

CAMPAIGN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

September 13, 2007

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Larry Craig
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Feinstein and Senator Craig:

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 subcommittees have been terrific champions 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 therefore respectfully ask 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 have requested 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 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 Robert C. Byrd, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee