

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 14, 2008

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dicks and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

We are writing to thank you for your support for the Office of Environmental Education at the Environmental Protection Agency, and respectfully request that you continue this support by level funding environmental education at \$9 million.

This program has a notable track record of success, and provides indispensable tools for teachers, museum staff, business leaders, health care professionals, meteorologists and others responsible for educating young people, employees and others about the environment. EPA's EE programs meet the highest standards for educational rigor and scientific accuracy.

Funds are allocated under the Act to the EPA's Office of Environmental Education, the Teacher Awards Program, the Environmental Education & Training Partnership (EETAP) teacher-training program, and the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF). EPA has awarded well over 3,000 small grants to schools universities, museums, zoos, aquariums and local governments. The Environmental Education & Training Partnership has provided training to over 100,000 educators with an emphasis on professional certification and skills development. Through the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF), \$10.9 million leveraged grant dollars for environmental education has been awarded. In addition to challenge grants, NEETF also serves as a private non-profit organization to bring together partners with common interests in understanding and addressing environmental literacy.

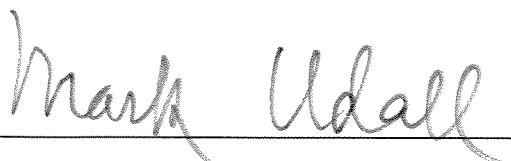
Fully 95% of American adults and 96 % of parents support environmental education being taught in the schools according to an environment survey conducted by Roper Starch Worldwide. Environmental Education is strongly endorsed by the 60,000 member National Science Teachers Association because it provides "context learning" for students to absorb abstract scientific principles by seeing them in a real world context. Students who are well-grounded in environmental education understand scientific principles better and test better in science.

Environmental education programs help insure that environmental education remains balanced and based in good science.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,





Dennis J. Kusinich

John Long

~~John Long~~

Phil English

Paul Blumstein

Jim Moran

Wang or Wang

JJ

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