

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 25, 2008

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
132 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Wayne Allard
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
123 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Feinstein and Ranking Member Allard:

We write to thank you for your support of the Office of Environmental Education (EE) at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and respectfully request that you continue this support by providing level funding of \$9 million for FY 09.

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 Foundation (NEEF), \$10.9 million leveraged grant dollars for environmental education has been awarded. In addition to challenge grants, NEEF also serves as a private non-profit organization to bring together partners with common interests in understanding and addressing environmental literacy.

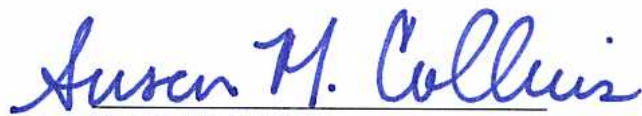
Fully 95% of American adults and 96% of parents support environmental education being taught in the schools according to an environment survey conducted by Roper Starch Worldwide. Environmental Education is strongly endorsed by the 60,000 member National Science Teachers Association because it provides "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,



Hillary Rodham Clinton


Susan M. Collins



Debbie Stabenow


Jack Reed


Bernard Sanders


Gordon H. Smith


Joseph I. Lieberman


Barbara Boxer


Charles E. Schumer


Richard J. Durbin