

The Ecological Society of America

JERRY F. FRANKLIN, President
University of Washington
College of Forest Resources, AR-10
Seattle, WA 98195
(206) 543-2138
(206) 685-3091 Fax

April 8, 1994

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
Chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6225

Dear Senator Pell:

The Ecological Society of America is an association representing over 7,000 professional ecologists who are involved in scientific research, education, and management of our natural resources. Our members are deeply committed to helping in development of solutions to environmental issues confronting our society and humankind.

I am writing you as the President of the Ecological Society of America to express our enthusiastic support for the Convention on Biological Diversity which is on the Committee docket for this spring. Our organization urges you to expedite the advice and consent process, and to work actively to ensure Senate approval of the Convention. Speedy ratification of this Convention is a very high priority for our members, as it is for the vast majority of ecologists and environmental scientists.

By ratifying this Convention, the United States makes clear that it has the same level of commitment to conserving biological diversity at the global level that it does domestically. Joining the Convention also brings the United States into a framework for international cooperation on saving the world's priceless biological heritage.

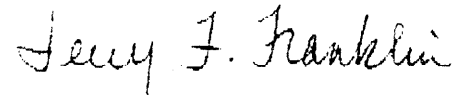
Joining the Convention will also allow the United States to attend the first Conference of the Parties, to be held later this year, as a full member of the Convention. Nearly 40 nations have already ratified the Convention, which entered into force as international law in December 1993.

We are pleased with the administration's positive approach to the Convention and are anxious, as a society, to assist the administration and Congress in any way possible in implementation of the agreement.

The Ecological Society of America sees this global agreement as an absolutely critical contribution to development of a sustainable human society. The biotic components of ecosystem management are represented by biological diversity. This Convention will help maintain the options for future human generations.

Our society would be pleased to meet with you or your staff to discuss this topic further. I am sending this copy of the letter with only my signature to ensure that it arrives in time for your deliberations. However, it will be followed by another that lists the signatures of all of our executive committee to suggest to you the level of support for this Convention in our organization.

Sincerely yours,



Jerry F. Franklin
President

c: Executive Committee, Ecological Society of America
Keller, Janetos
Gore, Babbitt, Wirth, Browner, Pomerance, Colson, Baker, Claussen,
McGinty, Watson