

The Honorable Michael Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Moran
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

March 16, 2012

Keep America Competitive by Funding Environmental Education at EPA

Dear Chairman Simpson, Congressman Moran, Chairman Reed, and Senator Murkowski:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters across the country, we thank you for your past support of environmental education and urge you to sustain funding for the National Environmental Education Act (NEEA) programs at the Environmental Protection Agency at the FY 2012 level of \$9.7M.

In order for the U.S. to remain competitive in the global economy, our citizens must have an education that is unparalleled in the world. An education that will enable them to make informed, scientifically sound environmental decisions. An education that includes outdoor experiential learning, which research indicates increases critical thinking and problem solving skills, skills that are necessary to foster innovation and keep America competitive in the global economy. Research indicates that environmental education improves student achievement in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) subject areas. This investment in environmental education is vital to America's economic future.

The EPA's Office of Environmental Education supports life-long environmental education and stewardship through several highly-leveraged, but under-resourced programs including the National Environmental Education Training Program to provide professional development for teachers, the National Environmental Education Foundation to leverage public/private partnerships, and an environmental education grant program to support local environmental education providers. Students in all 50 states benefit from these successful programs that accomplish so much in our communities.

In addition, these programs and environmental education more broadly has overwhelming public support. Fully 95 percent of American adults and 96 percent of parents support

environmental education being taught in the schools according to an environment survey conducted by Roper Starch Worldwide.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming year. Should you have any questions about this letter, please have your staff contact Danielle Moodie-Mills of the National Wildlife Federation at (202) 797-6634 Jim Elder of the Campaign for Environmental Literacy at (978) 526-7768, or Rita Hite of the American Forest Foundation at 202-463-2594. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

National and Regional Organizations:

Afterschool Alliance	National Council for Science and the Environment
Alliance for Climate Education	National Estuarine Research Reserve Association
Alliance to Save Energy	National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education
American Forest Foundation	National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)
American Forests	Nature Connections
American Public Gardens Association	NatureBridge
American Recreation Coalition	North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE)
Association of Polar Early Career Scientists	Ocean Alliance, Inc.
Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE)	Ocean Conservation Society
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)	One Ocean Consulting
Association of Zoos & Aquariums	Parks & People Foundation
Audubon Naturalist Society	Pheasants Forever Quail Forever
Back Country Horsemen of America	Place-Based Education Northwest
Bioneers	Project Indigenous
BlueGreen Alliance	Reef Relief
Campaign for Environmental Literacy	Restore the Earth Foundation
Chesapeake Bay Trust	Return of the Natives Restoration Education
Children and Nature Network	Second Nature
Earth Day Network	Sierra Club
Earth Force	Southwest Conservation Corps
Eco Think LLC	Student Conservation Association
Ecological Society of America	Sustainable World Coalition
Ecology in Classrooms & Outdoors (ECO)	The Acorn Group
Elemental Sustainable Landscape Planning and Design	The CLEO Institute
Engaging Every Student, LLC	The Ocean Project
Green Living Project	The Wilderness Society
Hispanic Access Foundation	Trout Unlimited
KyotoUSA	YouthMuse
Mississippi River Wild	
Mud Pie Planet	

State and Local Organizations:

Alaska Natural Resource and Outdoor Education Association (AK)
Aldo Leopold High School (NM)
Alex Grant & Company (IL)
Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education (NJ)
Alliance for Sustainable Colorado (CO)
Anacostia Watershed Society (MD)
Associated Students of Pacific Lutheran University: Outdoor Recreation Program (WA)
Audubon Society of Rhode Island (RI)
Back Bay Science Center (CA)
Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (NM)
BridgeWater Education Consulting, LLC (VA)
Cache Valley No Child Left Inside (UT)
California Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (CA)
Camp SEA Lab (CA)
Cape Fear River Watch, Inc. (NC)
Chattahoochee Nature Center (GA)
Catamount Center (CO)
Centennial School District, Portland, Oregon (OR)
Johnson Creek Watershed Council, Portland, Oregon (OR)
Coastal Studies Program of Hood College (MD)
Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CO)
Creative Energetics (OR)
Dauphin Island Sea Lab (AL)
DC Greenworks (DC)
Discovery Center at Murfree Spring (TN)
Dream Catcher Yachts (CA)
Eagle River Watershed Council (CO)
Eastern Kentucky University Center for Environmental Education (KY)
Edith Bowen Laboratory School (UT)
Environmental Dynamics Program, University of Arkansas (AK)
Environmental Education Association of Alabama (EEAA) (AL)
Environment Education Connections of South Dakota (SD)
Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia (GA)
Environmental Education Association of New Mexico (NM)
Environmental Education Association of Oregon (OR)
Environmental Educators of North Carolina (NC)
Environmental Program University of Vermont (VT)
Flint River Wild Ones (MI)
Friends of Dinosaur Ridge (CO)
Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve (CA)
The Friends of the Gardens On Spring Creek (CO)
Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed (WI)
Georgia Wildlife Federation (GA)
Gila Conservation Education Center (NM)
Gloucester High School, Gloucester Virginia (VA)
Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont (TN)
GREEN Community Schools (MN)
Green Power for Sustainability Club (MN)
Harper College (IL)
Hawaii Environmental Education Alliance (HI)
Hawaii Nature Center (HI)
Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History (SC)
Houston Wilderness Inc (TX)
Hui Malama na Mea a Kane (HI)
Idaho Environmental Education Association (ID)
Impact Conservation Services (CO)
Institute for Biomedical Philosophy (FL)
Kalamazoo Nature Center (MI)
Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) (KS)
Keep Carbondale Beautiful, Inc. (IL)
Kentucky Association for Environmental Education (KY)
Kentucky Division for Air Quality (KY)
kidsGROWkentucky, Inc. (KY)
Maine State Aquarium (ME)

Maryland Project Learning Tree (MD)
 Mattawan Later Elementary Native Prairie
 Garden Committee (MI)
 Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of
 Goshen College (IN)
 Miami University Hamilton Environmentally
 Conscious Organization (OH)
 Mid-State Technical College's Students
 Environmentally United for a Sustainable
 Society (WI)
 Mililani High School Science Learning Center
 (HI)
 Minnesota Association for Environmental
 Education (MN)
 Minnesota Naturalists' Association (MN)
 Missouri Environmental Education
 Association (MO)
 Monroe County Solid Waste Management
 District (IN)
 Mountain Kids (CO)
 Muller Field Station (NY)
 Natural Resources Council of Maine (ME)
 Net Impact Undergraduate Chapter at the
 University of South Carolina (SC)
 New Hampshire Audubon (NH)
 New Hampshire Environmental Educators
 (NH)
 New Jersey Audubon Society (NJ)
 New York University Office of Sustainability
 (NY)
 NH Children in Nature Coalition (NH)
 Northern Michigan University Greenpeace
 (MI)
 Openlands (IL)
 Pacific Education Institute (WA)
 Pennsylvania Association of Environmental
 Educators (PA)
 PeterCares House (DC)
 Phoenix Zoo (AZ)
 Potomac Environmental Research and
 Education Center, George Mason University
 (VA)
 Potomac Valley Audubon Society (WV)
 Puerto Rican Ornithological Society, Inc. (PR)
 Project of the Watershed Institute, California
 State University Monterey Bay (CA)
 Rhode Island Environmental Education
 Association (RI)
 Roaring Fork Environmental Education
 Network (CO)
 Save The River (NY)
 Seacoast Science Center (NH)
 Seattle Aquarium (WA)
 Shoreline Education for Awareness (OR)
 Siskiyou Field Institute (OR)
 South Coast Watersheds (OR)
 Southern Illinois Center for a Sustainable
 Future, Inc. (IL)
 Southern Oregon Regional Environmental
 Education Leaders (OR)
 Student Environmental Action Society of the
 University of West Florida (FL)
 Students for Environmental Action of MTSU
 (TN)
 Suffolk County Community College - Earth &
 Space Sciences at Ammerman Campus (NY)
 Sustain Forest Grove (OR)
 Sustainability Now Radio (PA)
 Sustainability Studies Program Ramapo
 College of New Jersey (NJ)
 Tahoe Future (CA)
 Taylor University - Stewards of Creation Club
 (IN)
 Tennessee Environmental Education
 Association (TN)
 The Kohala Center - Hawai'i Island School
 Garden Network (HI)
 The Living Planet Aquarium (UT)
 The Utah Society for Environmental
 Education (UT)
 Transportation Committee, The Emerson
 School (MI)
 University of Rhode Island Outreach Center
 and Ecological Landscaping Association (RI)
 Utah Conservation Corps (UT)
 Utah State University Water Quality
 Extension (UT)
 Vecinos del Rio - Mesa Prieta Petroglyph
 Project (NM)
 Wallowa Resources (OR)
 Warner Park Nature Center (TN)
 West Michigan Environmental Action Council
 (MI)
 West Virginia University Sierra Student
 Coalition (WV)
 Wild Rhythms, LLC (CO)
 Will Steger Foundation (MN)

Winter Green Farm (OR)
Wisconsin Environmental Education
Foundation (WI)
Wisconsin K-12 Energy Education Program
(WI)
Wisconsin K-12 Forestry Education Program,
LEAF (WI)
Worcester State University (MA)
Wyoming Association for Environmental
Education (WY)
Yampatika (CO)
Youth Service Hawaii (HI)
Zoo Atlanta (GA)