April 8, 2013

The Honorable Michael Simpson  The Honorable Jim Moran
Chairman  Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
   and Related Agencies  and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations  Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives  United States House of Representatives
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building  1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515

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

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 Patrick Fitzgerald of the National Wildlife Federation at (202) 797-6821. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

National and Regional Organizations:

African American Environmentalist Association, Center for Environment, Commerce & Energy
Afterschool Alliance
Alliance for the Great Lakes
American Forest Foundation
American Recreation Coalition
Appalachian Mountain Club
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Arbor Day Foundation
The Association of Nature Center Administrators
Association of Science-Technology Centers
Association of Zoos & Aquariums
Audubon Maryland-DC
Audubon Naturalist Society
Biodiversity Project
BlueGreen Alliance
Campaign for Environmental Literacy
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Chesapeake Bay Trust
Children & Nature Network
Choose Outdoors
City Parks Alliance
Council for Environmental Education
The Corps Network
Dimensions Educational Research Foundation
Earth Day Network
Earth Force
EarthEcho International
Ecological Society of America
Endangered Species Coalition
Friends of the Earth
Great Lakes Fishery Trust
Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont
Izzak Walton League of America
The Jane Goodall Institute
Keep America Beautiful
Living Classrooms Foundation
National Center for Science Education
National Council for Science and the Environment
National Park Foundation
National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education
National Recreation and Park Association
National Wildlife Federation
Nature Explore
NatureBridge
North American Association for Environmental Education
The Ocean Project
Odysseus
The Outdoor Foundation
Project WET Foundation
Public Lands Service Coalition
Second Nature
Sierra Club
Society for Public Health Education
Southwest Conservation Corps
Trout Unlimited
U.S. Green Building Council
University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum Earth Partnership Program
US Play Coalition
The Wilderness Society
Will Steger Foundation

State and Local Organizations:

Arkansas Wildlife Federation (AR)
Friends of the Petaluma River (CA)
Green Schools Initiative (CA)
Inverness Associates (CA)
San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research (CA)
Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CO)
Connecticut Outdoor & Environmental Educators Association (CT)
Solar Youth (CT)
Clean Air Partners (DC)
DC Environmental Education Consortium (DC)
DC Greenworks (DC)
Saturday Environmental Academy (DC)
Delaware Nature Society (DE)
Common Ground for Conservation - America Verde (FL)
Greening Youth Foundation (GA)
Sustaining Urban Villages Inc. (GA)
Zoo Atlanta (GA)
Conservation Council for Hawai‘i (HI)
Iowa Wildlife Federation (IA)
Wagner Conservation Coalition (IA)
Catalyst Group Global (IL)
Chicago Zoological Society (IL)
Omicron Technologies, Inc. (IL)
Openlands (IL)
YouthMuse (IL)
Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KS)
Eastern Kentucky University Center for Environmental Education (KY)
Bayou Land Conservancy (LA)
Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LA)
Anacostia Watershed Society (MD)
Environmental Stewardship Strategies (MD)
Maryland State Department of Education (MD)
Montgomery County Department of Recreation (MD)
National Aquarium (MD)
Kalamazoo Nature Center (MI)
Crow River Trail Guards, Inc. (MN)
Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League of America (MN)
Conservation Federation of Missouri (MO)
Minnesota Association for Environmental Education (MT)
Geographic Educators of Nebraska (NE)
Nebraska Association of Conservation and Environmental Educators (NE)
Otter Brook Farm Environmental Education Program (NH)
Alliance for NJ Environmental Education (NJ)
Jenkinson's Aquarium (NJ)
New Jersey Geographic Alliance (NJ)
The Wetlands Institute (NJ)
Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge (NJ)
Eco Think LLC (NM)
Environmental Education Association of New Mexico (NM)
Green Alliance (OH)
Teaching & Learning Collaborative (OH)
Association of Northwest Steelheaders (OR)
CEN/Environmental Education Project (OR)
Environmental Education Association of Oregon (OR)
Friends of Outdoor School (OR)
Oregon Coast Aquarium (OR)
PennFuture (PA)
Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators (PA)
Riverbend Environmental Education Center (PA)
Audubon Society of Rhode Island (RI)
Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History (SC)
South Carolina Wildlife Federation (SC)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation (SD)
Memphis Botanic Garden (TN)
Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute (TN)
Tennessee Geographic Alliance (TN)
Warner Park Nature Center, Nashville Metro Parks (TN)
Artist Boat (TX)
REAL School Gardens (TX)
Texas Conservation Alliance (TX)
Travis Audubon Society (TX)
Virginia Conservation Network (VA)
Virgin Islands Conservation Society (VI)
E3 Washington (WA)
Friends of the Upper Mississippi (WI)
Good for Business (WI)
Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WI)
Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WI)
Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WI)
Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation (WI)
West Virginia Rivers Coalition (WV)
Wyoming Association for Environmental Education (WY)