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St. Lawrence University
Canton, NY 13616
March 7, 2000

USDA Forest Service, Content Analysis Enterprise Team
UFP, Building 2, Suite 295
500 Amelia Earhart Drive,
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Dear Secretary Babbitt,

On February 18, representatives in Washington announced a proposal to unify federal efforts to protect water quality on federal lands under the "Unified Federal Policy to Ensure a Watershed Approach to Federal Land and Resource Management." As a concerned citizen of the United States and a strong supporter of conservative land and water management, I wanted to urge you to approve this proposal.

Without question, clean water is essential to the survival of every human culture and animal population on Earth. In light of this knowledge, however, we continually destroy our freshwater resource and endanger our own existence. Since the initiation of the Clean Water Act in 1972, America has made outstanding progress in restoring our rivers and lakes. Water quality has increased dramatically and previously unusable waterways are available for wildlife, recreation, and economic benefits. Yet, as we awake to the new millennium, serious water pollutions still persist. The United States government now has the opportunity to protect our resources well into the future if we accept the new watershed proposal.

Clean water has many benefits. Not only will it protect wildlife, improve human health, and create opportunities for previously unavailable economic benefits, but it will also protect the future of our nation. The passage of the "Unified Federal Policy to Ensure a Watershed Approach to Federal Land and Resource Management" will enhance the quality of life in all communities within the United States by protecting public health and reducing polluted runoff. The inclusion of this proposal into law will also help to improve natural resources stewardship and increase public involvement in watershed management. This policy has the potential to correct the mistakes we have made in the past. The proposal will benefit the environment, our country, and our future.

Despite the presence of a small minority that claim, "a one size fits all approach" to watershed management will be an ineffective measure that allows the government to limits an individual's freedom, the proposed watershed policy does not affect the currently applicable laws that determine water rights, and only serves to govern federal lands.

It is essential that this policy be enacted. We should take this opportunity to reverse the damages we have done to our environment within the last several centuries. It is time to strengthen our environmental action plan and limit any future destruction.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my opinion. I look forward to watching the proposal grow and ask you to notify me of any developments.

Sincerely,

Ed Cavallerano

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