

FEB 8 1968

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

ITHACA, N. Y. 14850

SECTION OF ECOLOGY & SYSTEMATICS
Langmuir Laboratory

5 January 1968

Honorable Henry M. Jackson
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Jackson:

Dr. Rexford Daubenmire of Washington State University, the past president of the Ecological Society of America, has referred your bill (S. 2805) and the Congressional Record (Vol. 113, No. 206, December 15, 1967) to me in my capacity as current president of the Ecological Society of America.

The Council of the Society will not convene until June, however, speaking as an individual, I have no hesitation in assuring you that the membership of the Society will strongly support passage of this bill. The most fundamental problems facing man today are basically ecological problems, and several leading ecologists testified in favor of Senator Nelson's bill (S. 2282) in the 89th Congress.

The Ecological Society now has a vigorous Committee on Public Affairs under the chairmanship of Dr. W. Frank Blair of the University of Texas which stands ready to advise members of Congress and others who need consultants on these intricate and ramifying environmental questions.

I should like to comment on one aspect of the article from Sports Illustrated as given on page S18810 of the Congressional Record. A Council of Ecological Advisers is badly needed and it is appropriate for such a council to include engineers and landscape architects. However, a major part of the body should consist of ecologists - authentic environmental biologists who have studied these problems in all their great complexity. Of the persons mentioned on page S18810 as appropriate members, only one, Paul Sears, would be universally accepted by ecologists as one of their own, and he is several years past retirement age. I should like to suggest a small sampling of names of persons of the type who would give professional ecologists confidence in the competence of such a Council:

W. Frank Blair, University of Texas
Stanley Cain, U. S. Department of the Interior
John Cantlon, Michigan State University .
G. Evelyn Hutchinson, Yale University

Bostwick W. Ketchum, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Thomas Park, University of Chicago
Frederick E. Smith, University of Michigan
Robert H. Whittaker, University of California, Irvine

I could name many others but the point I wish to make is that ecology is probably the most interdisciplinary of the sciences and very few persons outside of the realm of professional ecologists ever develop a talent for appreciating the ramifying interactions characteristic of problems in environmental biology.

I am taking the liberty of enclosing two reprints and a preprint of a lecture as yet unpublished hoping that they may be of some interest to you.

Respectfully,

LaMont C. Cole

LCC:dj

LaMont C. Cole
Professor of Ecology

Xerox copies to:

Dr. S. I. Auerbach, Secretary, Ecological Society of America
Dr. W. Frank Blair, Chairman, Public Affairs Committee, Ecological Society of America
Hon. Jacob Javits, U. S. Senate
Hon. Robert F. Kennedy, U. S. Senate
Hon. Thomas H. Kuchal, U. S. Senate
Hon. Gaylord Nelson, U. S. Senate
Hon. Howard Robison, House Office Building