

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1204

April 27, 1995

Mr. Ernest D. Ables  
President  
Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
C/O Fish and Wildlife Dept.  
University of Idaho  
Moscow, ID 83844

Dear Ernest:

Thank you for your recent letter outlining the Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative.

As you may know, I am a great supporter of private or voluntary funding of philanthropical causes such as wildlife conservation. While the preservation and conservation of our nation's wildlife is important to me, I do not believe a mandatory consumption tax on backpacks, sleeping bags, binoculars, and other outdoor equipment, is appropriate. This new consumption tax would only burden economic growth and increase unemployment in the industries effected by the tax. Moreover, many of these so-called outdoor products have non-outdoor uses. For instance, binoculars are often used at sporting events and students often carry their books to school in backpacks. This consumption tax would be unfair to the non-outdoor purchaser.

I still believe well organized and managed fundraising efforts are the appropriate way to preserve Idaho's non-endangered wildlife -- not a mandated federal consumption tax.

While we may not agree on this matter, I am glad to know of the Wildlife Society's thoughts on this important issue.

Sincerely,



DIRK KEMPTHORNE  
United States Senator

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