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ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

REPUBLICAN TASK FORCE ON
AGRICULTURE
CO-CHAIRMAN

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CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS

Leonard Johnson
Interim Dean
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1202

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Dear Leonard:

Thank you for contacting my office. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

President Clinton introduced the National Biological Survey (NBS) in his April 21, 1994 Earth Day speech. This new department, housed within the Department of Interior, will be responsible for studying, monitoring and cataloguing America's plant and animal life, and conveying this information to other federal agencies that manage biological resources.

Both the NBS and its funding were never authorized by the Congress. Instead, it was created and funded without prior authorization by inserting it in an appropriations bill. Representative Ralph Regula, Chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee has stated that his subcommittee will not fund non-authorized projects and legislation.

I am also opposed to the NBS because the information gathered by the NBS can be used by all Federal, state and local agencies to regulate private land under the Endangered Species Act, Section 404 wetlands regulations, and other environmental laws to target private land for government acquisition because of "biological value."

I understand your concerns regarding the potential loss of funding to the Idaho Fish and Game should the NBS be abolished. I will keep your concerns in mind as the debate over the NBS continues.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Crapo
Member of Congress

MDC/wh