

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1204

September 9, 1997

Dr. James Unsworth
President, TWS Idaho Chapter
2319 Daisy Place
Nampa, Idaho 83686

Dear Dr. Unsworth:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your support for the Teaming With Wildlife Initiative.

As you know, the idea behind this proposal is to place an excise tax on selected outdoor products and equipment used by bird watchers, hikers, backpackers, canoeists, and the like to fund non-game wildlife conservation, recreation and education programs.

While much discussion has circulated regarding this proposal, no legislation has yet been introduced in either the House or the Senate. I would have concerns about any proposal that would result in an increase in taxes of any kind for Americans. However, I do support funding for the non-game act and, along with several Members of Congress, am currently seeking ways to provide funding for that act.

Again, thank you for contacting me. I appreciate knowing of your specific thoughts regarding the Initiative, and will certainly keep them in mind as the issue moves forward.

Sincerely,



DIRK KEMPTHORNE
United States Senator

DK/sch