

MH W  
WEF W  
SD A  
WBR W  
LBN W  
AK W  
CC C  
BB P

April 26, 1966

The Honorable Gaylord Nelson  
Room 404, Old Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

m/pm Ecological  
Research Bldg - C

Dear Senator Nelson:

After reading the Ecological Research and Surveys bill proposed by you, I am pleased to say that I am in complete support of the bill and its purposes.

We are building a new city midway between Washington and Baltimore. In order to do this, we acquired 15,000 acres of Maryland farmland. It has been one of our goals to respect and dignify the land in the course of planning and development and thus to enhance the enrichment of the new city. In order to reach our goals, one of the first consultants to whom we turned was Dr. Paul Sears, quoted in the introduction to the bill. We have provided for the preservation of the stream valleys; the building of five lakes; the proper forestation of natural wooded areas, and the building of parks and bridle paths.

All of this has been done at great expense and often, unfortunately, with insufficient information regarding the ecological conditions which would be affected. It would be wonderful, for example, to have really substantial knowledge as to the role of water in the environment. The process of building the many lakes which we propose in Columbia is a difficult and tedious one. We are confident that the creation of lakes is a worthwhile effort; but because of the lack of general knowledge as to their broader values to the environment, we seem to have few allies in the process. The same general problem pervades the entire city-building process. It is hard to quantify or evaluate specifically the worth of the various elements of natural amenity we seek to preserve.

I regret that my schedule will not permit me to testify on behalf of the bill. My testimony could only elaborate on these general remarks. We have no real expertise on this subject within our staff. No doubt you know about Ian McHarg, Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Landscape Architecture. I would recommend him as a witness since he has long pioneered the need for ecological concern and research in our changing environment.



- 2 -

The Honorable Gaylord Nelson

April 26, 1966

Thank you for considering us in relation to this bill. We hope that we can be more helpful in the future.

Sincerely,

James W. Rouse

o'b

cc: Mr. William J. Spring  
Rm 404 Old Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C.