

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton
Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Americorps

Series/Staff Member: General Files

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 24235

FolderID:

Folder Title:

USDA [Department of Agriculture]/Americorps - Congressional Correspondence 7

Stack:
S

Row:
66

Section:
1

Shelf:
7

Position:
3

FRANK MASLAKA
 20th DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA
 1531 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
 WASHINGTON, DC 20515
 (202) 225-4865

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515-3820

October 9, 1996

The Honorable William F. Goodling
 Chairman
 House Committee On Economic
 And Educational Opportunities
 2181 RHOB
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Goodling:

I am writing to urge that you make every effort to reach an agreement with Department of Agriculture officials so that several every successful AmeriCorps programs operating in my District can continue in Fiscal 1997.

Over this past year, a program, involving 10-12 young people, established and ran a very successful food program in Fayette County that included gleaning and community gardening projects, as well as an educational component that taught needy residents about effective nutrition. Another Fayette County program, overseen by USDA's Rural Development Agency, utilized five young adults who helped low-income citizens file for home loans, worked on designing the National Road Visitors' Center, and organized and assisted in running clean-up projects of junk yards and trails near the National Road.

Local officials involved with both of these efforts have repeatedly praised the Corps volunteers and spoken highly of the quality of their work. They are deeply interested in ensuring they can count on both of these projects providing assistance in the coming months. As a result, I would implore you to work out the needed understanding with Department of Agriculture officials that will allow the Department to continue to play a role in such important AmeriCorps programs.

DISTRICT OFFICES
 (800) 213-5570

Greene Co. Ofc. Bldg.
 93 E. High St. Rm. 303
 Waynesburg, PA 15370
 (412) 852-2182

47 East Penn Street
 Uniontown, PA 15401
 (412) 437-6078

96 North Main Street
 Washington, PA 15301
 (412) 228-4326

3093 Washington Pike
 Bridgeville, PA 15017
 (412) 220-9046

Municipal Bldg. Room 103
 324 Followfield Avenue
 Charleroi, PA 15022
 (412) 483-9016

I want to thank for your time and attention and your assistance in resolving this problem which directly impacts many citizens of my District.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Mascara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Frank Mascara
Member of Congress

FM:bml



COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2181 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

MARGE ROUKEMA, NEW JERSEY
STEVE GUNDERSON, WISCONSIN
MARKUS W. PETERILL, ILLINOIS
CASS BALLENGER, NORTH CAROLINA
BILL BARRETT, NEBRASKA
RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM, CALIFORNIA
PETE HOEKSTRA, MICHIGAN
HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON, CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL N. CASTLE, DELAWARE
JAN MEYERS, KANSAS
SAM JOHNSON, TEXAS
JAMES M. TALENT, MISSOURI
JAMES C. GREENWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA
TIM MUTHINSON, ARKANSAS
JOSEPH K. KNOLLENBERG, MICHIGAN
FRANK D. RIGGS, CALIFORNIA
UNDSLEY O. GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
DAVE WELDON, FLORIDA
DAVID FUNDERBURK, NORTH CAROLINA
MARK SOUDER, INDIANA
DAVID MCINTOSH, INDIANA
CHARLIE NORWOOD, GEORGIA

GEORGE MILLER, CALIFORNIA
DALE E. GORDON, MONTANA
PAT WILLIAMS, MONTANA
MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA
MAJORIS CHAND, NEW YORK
THOMAS E. SOWDER, OHIO
DONALD M. DAYNE, NEW JERSEY
PATSY T. LEAH, HAWAII
ROBERT E. ANDREWS, NEW JERSEY
JACK NEED, RHODE ISLAND
TIM ROEMER, INDIANA
XAVIER BECERRA, CALIFORNIA
ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, VIRGINIA
GENE GREEN, TEXAS
LYNN C. WOOLSEY, CALIFORNIA
CARLOS A. ROMERO-BARCELO, PUERTO RICO
CHUCK PATTAI, PENNSYLVANIA
EARL BLUMENBAUM, OREGON

MAJORITY — (202) 225-4627
(TTY) — (202) 225-3372
MINORITY — (202) 225-3726
(TTY) — (202) 225-3113

November 15, 1996

The Honorable Frank Mascara
1531 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Frank:

Thank you for your letter concerning the beneficial work of the AmeriCorps members serving in your district under two Department of Agriculture sponsored AmeriCorps programs. I, too, have noticed the beneficial work of AmeriCorps members serving in my district, and around the country.

As I'm sure you are aware, the issue of funding for AmeriCorps has been quite contentious this past year. However, the decision to discontinue funding of federally sponsored AmeriCorps programs, such as those sponsored by the Department of Agriculture, is the result of an agreement reached between Harris Wofford, the CEO of the Corporation for National Service, and Senator Grassley. This action was not taken by this Committee and I was not a part of the negotiations that led to the final agreement. However, it is my understanding that this agreement in no way limits the Department of Agriculture from unilaterally funding AmeriCorps programs. Instead, the agreement merely limits the Department's ability to "directly" sponsor such programs.

Furthermore, the language contained in the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriation's Act of 1996, H.R. 3610, allows the Departments of Agriculture and Interior to fund AmeriCorps programs, but only after making the required reprogramming requests (which apparently had not been done in the past). In short, I would expect that the programs operating in your district will continue to operate unless the Department of Agriculture or the Appropriation's Committee opt to cease their funding of these programs. In either case, this decision would be out of the control of this Committee. Therefore, I would urge you to contact the Department of Agriculture and the Committee on Appropriations with this concern.

While I have serious questions about the current operations of the Corporation for National Service and its premier program, AmeriCorps, I believe that this Congress can, and will, find a better way to encourage and support community service during the coming year. Your input into this matter is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for sharing your views with me on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", written over the printed name.

BILL GOODLING
Chairman

WFG/dam

PATRICK LEAHY
VERMONT

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND
FORESTRY
APPROPRIATIONS
JUDICIARY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4502

October 21, 1996

The Honorable Kit Bond
Chairman

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Kit,

I am writing to follow up on my letter to you last April and our conversation regarding USDA sponsored AmeriCorps programs that took place during conference on the Appropriations bill for the VA, HUD and Independent Agencies.

I hope that you can provide the clarification that is needed for USDA sponsored AmeriCorps programs to continue under the leadership of local organizations and land managers. These programs have brought new volunteer efforts to every corner of rural Vermont--- areas difficult to reach through traditional nonprofit organizations.

The Department of Agriculture would like to build on the success of their AmeriCorps programs in keeping with the requirement that National Service funds should not be transferred to Federally run programs. Already local organizations play an active role in most USDA AmeriCorps programs. The Department intends to transfer authority for running all of its AmeriCorps programs to the local non-profits or land managers involved in those programs, while continuing to offer technical assistance and financial support. However, National Service education awards are needed to allow this new partnership to move forward.

To be clear, the Corporation for National Service interprets current law as allowing the Corporation "to enter into agreements with federal agencies to support national service programs, with the understanding that such agreements need not include the transfer of funds." Providing education awards for USDA sponsored programs would result in no funds being transferred to any federal agency. Those awards, like all National Service education awards would be set-aside on behalf of individual participants in the program and would go directly to approved institutions of higher education or lending agencies from the National Service Trust. The Department of Agriculture would fund all necessary costs for operating these programs and paying member stipends from funds already appropriated to it by the Congress. No "new" money is needed.

The uncertainty about providing National Service "education only" awards to participants in USDA supported programs has left around 1,000 prospective members in limbo. Equally important, the delay has left countless residents of rural areas without the assistance these members would bring to rural communities.

October 21, 1996
The Honorable Kit Bond
Page 2

The Rural Fire Protection Task Force is a good example of the benefits these programs can bring. With the assistance of the AmeriCorps Fire Technical Team, Vermont's Rural Fire Protection Task Force was able to install 44 dry fire hydrants, lowering insurance rates by about \$76 per year for 1,600 home owners living in rural areas of the state. That translates into over \$7 of savings for every \$1 spent on the program.

The AmeriCorps programs sponsored by USDA in Vermont have provided valuable assistance to poor rural residents. I hope that you will be able to provide the clarification that is needed to build on the success of these programs while we discuss options for sustaining them in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick Leahy".

PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator

PJL/adr

ARLEN SPECTER
PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEES:
INTELLIGENCE
JUDICIARY
APPROPRIATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802

September 19, 1996

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond
Chairman
Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Kit:

It has just been brought to my attention that a funding issue has arisen concerning the role of the United States Department of Agriculture in various AmeriCorps projects.

I am advised that an AmeriCorps program in Fayette County, Pennsylvania has six students who are prepared to commence work to rehabilitate housing and to mitigate pollution, which is vital to economic development in that region. I would appreciate your help to see that all necessary steps are taken to allow these six AmeriCorps students to commence work.

I understand you recently met with Secretary Glickman on the broad issue of the United States Department of Agriculture involvement in AmeriCorps. I am hopeful that this matter will be resolved promptly so the Fayette County work of AmeriCorps personnel can proceed.

As always, I appreciate your assistance on this matter and wish to thank you for your personal consideration.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

JOHN P. MURTHA
12TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE
APPROPRIATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3812

November 21, 1996

Senator Christopher S. Bond
U.S. Senate
293 Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bond:

I'm writing to you out of concern over the potential loss of some USDA Americorps projects in southwestern Pennsylvania that have been very successful in contributing to the area's economic development. I understand Senator Specter has also written to you previously about the USDA Americorps team in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, where the unemployment rate is over 10% and over 20% of residents live below the poverty level. Fayette County is part of the Congressional district I represent.

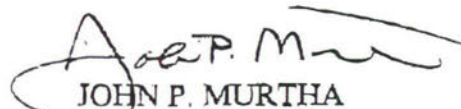
I know you've had some concerns over the USDA's funding of these projects. However, I ask you to reconsider allowing the USDA to fund its Americorps projects for the coming year. It is my understanding that the USDA and the Corporation for National Service are offering to make this the last year in which the USDA will administer the programs and that they will use this year to transition to a direct, non-profit funding mechanism for those programs.

We're down to the wire in terms of being able to get this year's projects under way. Soon there won't be enough time left for the students to complete the number of hours of service to fulfill the requirements of the program. In an area with such high unemployment and poverty levels, the program has given invaluable opportunity to these kids. They've been waiting for their jobs to start and will be left hanging--- it will be too late for them to pursue other options, which are few and far between.

Additionally, there are projects that were begun last year on which work was expected to continue this year but which now remain unfinished. The work done thus far will have been wasted if it is not followed through this year to its completion.

I appreciate your assistance on this issue.

Sincerely,


JOHN P. MURTHA
Member of Congress

JOHN MCCAIN
ARIZONA
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

November 4, 1996

Mr. Vince Ancell
Director
Department of Agriculture
Office of Congressional Relations
ADMBG, Room 213-A
Washington, D.C. 20250-0001

Dear Mr. Ancell:

I wish to bring to your attention a matter concerning my constituent, Helen Crofford, who has expressed her concerns regarding potential changes to Department of Agriculture /Americorps partnerships.

Please investigate, in accordance with existing rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines, the statements made in the enclosed letter and return the response to me at the following address:

Attn: Kevin Adam
Office of Senator John McCain
1839 S. Alma School Rd.
Suite 375
Mesa, AZ 85210

The response you provide will be greatly appreciated and will be forwarded to my constituent. If you should have any questions, please contact my office at (602) 491-4300. I look forward to your reply at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



John McCain
United States Senator

JM/zka
Enclosure

241 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0303
(202) 224-2235
1839 SOUTH ALMA SCHOOL ROAD
SUITE 375
... MESA, AZ 85210
(602) 491-4300
2400 EAST ARIZONA
BILTMORE CIRCLE
SUITE 1150
PHOENIX, AZ 85016
(602) 952-2410
450 WEST PASEO REDONDO
SUITE 200
TUCSON, AZ 85701
(520) 670-6334
TELEPHONE FOR HEARING IMPAIRED
(202) 224-7132
(602) 952-0170

Phil Gramm
Texas

United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

Date: 10-8

Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
14th & Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

My constituent has sent me the enclosed communication, and I would appreciate a response which addresses his/her concerns.

Please send your response, together with the constituent's correspondence, to me at the following address:

Office of Senator Phil Gramm
2323 Bryan Street, #1500
Dallas, Texas 75201

Attention: Brett Brewer

214 - 767
- 8754



CITY OF GONZALES

SHRINE OF A GREAT TEXAS HERITAGE



Where The Fight For Texas' Liberty Began

DATE: September 30, 1996

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGE(S) TO:

NAME: Senator Phil Gramm

FIRM: U.S. Senate

Number

Calling 202-228-2856

FROM: CITY OF GONZALES - Economic Development

WE ARE TRANSMITTING 4 PAGE(S) INCLUDING COVER PAGE

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL OF THE PAGE(S) INDICATED,
PLEASE CALL Sandra F. Mauldin AT (210) 672-2815.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING SENT FROM FACSIMILE
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (210) 672-2813.

National Service Program Funded through 1998

AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve receive level funding

AmeriCorps Looking for a Few Great Citizens

September 27, 1996

WASHINGTON -- With overwhelming margins, Congress passed on Tuesday and the President signed today the appropriations bill that funds AmeriCorps -- the new "domestic Peace Corps" -- through 1998.

The VA-HUD-Independent Agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 1997 funds the AmeriCorps Class of 1998 (which begins their service year in autumn 1997) at the same level (\$402.5 million) as this current year, engaging 25,000 citizens in community service. The bill also level-funds Learn & Serve America -- the nation's student service initiative -- at \$43 million.

"AmeriCorps lives," says Harris Wofford, Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National Service. "With both sides of the aisle agreeing that the era of big government is over, America is calling for an era of great citizens."

"This vote of confidence and resources by the Congress will allow AmeriCorps a fourth year to prove itself as a nonpartisan, cost-effective way to engage citizens in community problem-solving," Wofford says.

AMERICORPS RECRUITING NOW

Meanwhile, AmeriCorps has launched a concerted drive to recruit thousands of men and women to apply for the Class of 1997, which officially kicks-off a year of service on October 25, 1996.

AmeriCorps offers citizens age 18 and older opportunities to engage in full-time, results-driven service while earning help to pay for education.

"As an AmeriCorps member, you can serve for one or two years with one of hundreds of local non-profits and national organizations throughout the country," says Wofford. You will receive a modest weekly living allowance and earn an education voucher of \$4,725 at year's end, which may be used for college tuition, continued education or training, or to re-pay student loans.

"Be an AmeriCorps hero and help your country meet its toughest challenges. National Service presents a unique opportunity and challenge to highly motivated individuals of all ages and backgrounds to make a real difference in our communities," says Wofford.

Citizens seeking an opportunity to serve in AmeriCorps are encouraged to **APPLY NOW**.

For more information, call 1-800-942-2677, or use the links below.

You can link from this page to more information about AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America and National Senior Service Corps, or you can go back to the CNS homepage.

It is a shame this does not include the rural communities of Puling, Waller, Waller, Columbia and Douglas, Texas. What a loss! The AmeriCorps position helped accomplish Engoverment Good Activities.

A. M. S. L.

ARLEN SPECTER
PENNSYLVANIACOMMITTEES:
INTELLIGENCE
JUDICIARY
APPROPRIATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802

September 19, 1996

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond
Chairman
Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Kit:

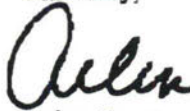
It has just been brought to my attention that a funding issue has arisen concerning the role of the United States Department of Agriculture in various AmeriCorps projects.

I am advised that an AmeriCorps program in Fayette County, Pennsylvania has six students who are prepared to commence work to rehabilitate housing and to mitigate pollution, which is vital to economic development in that region. I would appreciate your help to see that all necessary steps are taken to allow these six AmeriCorps students to commence work.

I understand you recently met with Secretary Glickman on the broad issue of the United States Department of Agriculture involvement in AmeriCorps. I am hopeful that this matter will be resolved promptly so the Fayette County work of AmeriCorps personnel can proceed.

As always, I appreciate your assistance on this matter and wish to thank you for your personal consideration.

Sincerely,


Arlen Specter

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

FRANK MASCARA
20TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

1531 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4665

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3820

TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
PUBLIC BUILDINGS
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
EDUCATION, TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT
AND HOUSING

October 8, 1996

Senator Charles E. Grassley
U.S. Senate
135 Hart
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

I am writing to urge that you make every effort to reach an agreement with Department of Agriculture officials so that several every successful AmeriCorps programs operating in my District can continue in Fiscal 1997.

Over this past year, a program, involving 10-12 young people, established and ran a very successful food program in Fayette County that included gleaning and community gardening projects, as well as an educational component that taught needy residents about effective nutrition. Another Fayette County program, overseen by USDA's Rural Development Agency, utilized five young adults who helped low-income citizens file for home loans, worked on designing the National Road Visitors' Center, and organized and assisted in running clean-up projects of junk yards and trails near the National Road.

Local officials involved with both of these efforts have repeatedly praised the Corps volunteers and spoken highly of the quality of their work. They are deeply interested in ensuring they can count on both of these projects providing assistance in the coming months. As a result, I would implore you to work out the needed understanding with Department of Agriculture officials that will allow the Department to continue to play a role in such important AmeriCorps programs.

DISTRICT OFFICES
(800) 213-5570

Greene Co. Ofc. Bldg.
93 E. High St. Rm. 303
Waynesburg, PA 15370
(412) 852-2182

47 East Penn Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
(412) 437-5078

96 North Main Street
Washington, PA 15301
(412) 228-4326

3093 Washington Pike
Bridgeville, PA 15017
(412) 220-9046

Municipal Bldg. Room 103
284 Fallowfield Avenue
Charleroi, PA 15022
(412) 483-9016

I want to thank for your time and attention and your assistance in resolving this problem which directly impacts many citizens of my District.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Mascara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Frank Mascara
Member of Congress

FM:bml

1531 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4665

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3820

October 8, 1996

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Sub. VA HUD & INDEP. Agencies
H-143 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515-6022

Dear Chairman Lewis:

I am writing to urge that you make every effort to reach an agreement with Department of Agriculture officials so that several very successful AmeriCorps programs operating in my District can continue in Fiscal 1997.

Over this past year, a program, involving 10-12 young people, established and ran a very successful food program in Fayette County that included gleaning and community gardening projects, as well as an educational component that taught needy residents about effective nutrition. Another Fayette County program, overseen by USDA's Rural Development Agency, utilized five young adults who helped low-income citizens file for home loans, worked on designing the National Road Visitors' Center, and organized and assisted in running clean-up projects of junk yards and trails near the National Road.

Local officials involved with both of these efforts have repeatedly praised the Corps volunteers and spoken highly of the quality of their work. They are deeply interested in ensuring they can count on both of these projects providing assistance in the coming months. As a result, I would implore you to work out the needed understanding with Department of Agriculture officials that will allow the Department to continue to play a role in such important AmeriCorps programs.

DISTRICT OFFICES
(800) 213-5570

Greene Co. Ofc. Bldg.
93 E. High St. Rm. 303
Waynesburg, PA 15370
(412) 852-2182

47 East Penn Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
(412) 437-5078

96 North Main Street
Washington, PA 15301
(412) 228-4326

3093 Washington Pike
Bridgeville, PA 15017
(412) 220-9046

Municipal Bldg. Room 103
334 Fallowfield Avenue
Charleroi, PA 15022
(412) 483-9016

I want to thank for your time and attention and your assistance in resolving this problem which directly impacts many citizens of my District.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Mascara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Frank Mascara
Member of Congress

FM:bml

October 18, 1996

The Honorable Senator Bond
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Kit,

I am writing to follow up on our conversation during conference on the Appropriations bill for the VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations bill regarding USDA sponsored AmeriCorps programs.

As I outlined in my letter to you in April, I hope that you can provide the clarification that is needed for the Rural Development Team and Public Lands and Environment Teams sponsored by USDA to continue to operate their AmeriCorps programs in Vermont. These programs have brought volunteer efforts to every corner of rural Vermont--- areas difficult to reach through traditional volunteer or nonprofit organizations.

The Rural Fire Protection Task Force is a good example of the benefits these volunteer efforts can bring. With the assistance of the AmeriCorps Fire Technical Team, Vermont's Rural Fire Protection Task Force was able to install 44 dry fire hydrants, lowering insurance rates by about \$76 per year for 1,600 home owners living in rural areas of the state. That translates into over \$7 of savings for every \$1 spent on the program.

The uncertainty about providing National Service "education only" awards to volunteers participating in USDA sponsored programs like the Rural Fire Protection Task Force, has already disrupted these important volunteer efforts. Around 1,000 prospective volunteers remain in limbo every day until this clarification is made.

To be clear, the Corporation for National Service interprets current law as allowing the Corporation "to enter into agreements with federal agencies to support national service programs, with the understanding that such agreements need not include the transfer of funds." Providing education awards for USDA sponsored programs would result in no funds being transferred to any federal agency-- those awards, like all National Service education awards would be set-aside on behalf of individual participants in the program. The Department of Agriculture would fund all necessary costs for operating these programs and paying volunteer stipends.

October 18, 1996
The Honorable Kit Bond
Page 2

The AmeriCorps programs sponsored by USDA in Vermont have provided valuable assistance to countless rural residents. I hope that you will be able to provide the clarification that is needed to maintain the success of these programs as soon as possible. I have enclosed a copy of my earlier letter for your information.

Sincerely,

PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator

PJL/adr

Enclosure

225-3306

Fax 226-0347

The Buffalo News/Thursday, September 19, 1996

Pordum faults Quinn on AmeriCorps

Challenger points to congressman's vote for 72% cut in program he now praises

By JERRY ZREMSKI

News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Assemblyman Francis J. Pordum, the Democratic challenger to Republican Rep. Jack F. Quinn, is accusing his opponent of voting last year to cut a Clinton administration volunteer program that he is now praising.

But Quinn said that more recently, he voted to save AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program.

Pordum said Wednesday that in March 1995, Quinn voted for a

bill that would have trimmed \$17.3 billion from the federal budget. That bill, which was never signed into law, included a \$416 million, or 72 percent, cut in AmeriCorps.

Quinn announced Tuesday that the AmeriCorps program will provide 10 volunteer guides in downtown Buffalo by the end of the year.

Pordum, from Hamburg, as is Quinn, said it was hypocritical for the congressman to praise AmeriCorps now in the wake of his budget vote.

"His vote last year shows where his real true sentiment is," Pordum said. "Now, he's running for re-

election and reworking his record."

Quinn has frequently voted for cuts he has disagreed with in broad-brush budget bills and then has tried to save his favored programs later.

He said the AmeriCorps program is just another example of those efforts. This year, he was one of 50 Republicans who voted to save AmeriCorps, and he wrote a letter to the Senate supporting the program.

"I seldom like all of what's in any bill," Quinn said. "When it's done, we go back and try to fix it."

Date: 9/20/96

To: Kathryn Gibney & Joel Berg 202 703 4614

From: John Whitney

RON Mates

Jack Quinn made a bit of a splash about bringing 10 AmeriCorps members to Buffalo to function as downtown guides. His opponent has been faulting him on his voting recording. — The politics of AmeriCorps.

Jack has been very supportive of our efforts. I think he truly is an AmeriCorps supporter. Pordum would likely be supportive also.

Aura

Kent

Quinn

FRANK MASCARA
20TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

1531 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4665

TO

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3820

97204614 P.02
**TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
PUBLIC BUILDINGS
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
EDUCATION, TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT
AND HOUSING

October 8, 1996

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond
Chairman
Senate Appropriations
Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and
Independent Agencies
SD-131
Washington, D.C. 20510-6032

Dear Senator Bond:

I am writing to urge that you make every effort to reach an agreement with Department of Agriculture officials so that several every successful AmeriCorps programs operating in my District can continue in Fiscal 1997.

Over this past year, a program, involving 10-12 young people, established and ran a very successful food program in Fayette County that included gleaning and community gardening projects, as well as an educational component that taught needy residents about effective nutrition. Another Fayette County program, overseen by USDA's Rural Development Agency, utilized five young adults who helped low-income citizens file for home loans, worked on designing the National Road Visitors' Center, and organized and assisted in running clean-up projects of junk yards and trails near the National Road.

Local officials involved with both of these efforts have repeatedly praised the Corps volunteers and spoken highly of the quality of their work. They are deeply interested in ensuring they can count on both of these projects providing assistance in the coming months. As a result, I would implore you to work out the needed understanding with Department of Agriculture officials that will allow the Department to continue to play a role in such important AmeriCorps programs.

DISTRICT OFFICES
(800) 213-5570

Greene Co. Ofc. Bldg.
93 E. High St. Rm. 303
Waynesburg, PA 15370
(412) 852-2182

47 East Penn Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
(412) 437-5078

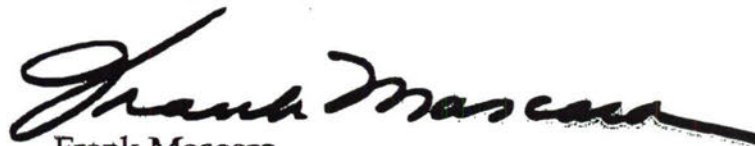
96 North Main Street
Washington, PA 15301
(412) 228-4326

3093 Washington Pike
Bridgeville, PA 15017
(412) 220-9046

Municipal Bldg. Room 103
334 Fallowfield Avenue
Charleroi, PA 15022
(412) 483-9016

I want to thank for your time and attention and your assistance in resolving this problem which directly impacts many citizens of my District.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Mascara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Frank Mascara
Member of Congress

FM:bml

JOHN P. MURTHA
12TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE
APPROPRIATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3812

November 21, 1996

Senator Christopher S. Bond
U.S. Senate
293 Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bond:

I'm writing to you out of concern over the potential loss of some USDA Americorps projects in southwestern Pennsylvania that have been very successful in contributing to the area's economic development. I understand Senator Specter has also written to you previously about the USDA Americorps team in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, where the unemployment rate is over 10% and over 20% of residents live below the poverty level. Fayette County is part of the Congressional district I represent.

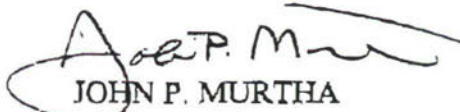
I know you've had some concerns over the USDA's funding of these projects. However, I ask you to reconsider allowing the USDA to fund its Americorps projects for the coming year. It is my understanding that the USDA and the Corporation for National Service are offering to make this the last year in which the USDA will administer the programs and that they will use this year to transition to a direct, non-profit funding mechanism for those programs.

We're down to the wire in terms of being able to get this year's projects under way. Soon there won't be enough time left for the students to complete the number of hours of service to fulfill the requirements of the program. In an area with such high unemployment and poverty levels, the program has given invaluable opportunity to these kids. They've been waiting for their jobs to start and will be left hanging--- it will be too late for them to pursue other options, which are few and far between.

Additionally, there are projects that were begun last year on which work was expected to continue this year but which now remain unfinished. The work done thus far will have been wasted if it is not followed through this year to its completion.

I appreciate your assistance on this issue.

Sincerely,


JOHN P. MURTHA
Member of Congress



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Bill Hanigan, Office of Senator Grassley

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

JB

USDA and the Corporation for National Service (CNS) continue to search for a compromise that would meet Senator Grassley's goal of ending direct Federal agency management of AmeriCorps projects, but would allow USDA to continue to provide technical assistance and funding to locally-based organizations that sponsor AmeriCorps projects.

We would like to clarify three points raised in Senator Grassley's September 25, 1996 letter to Harris Wofford:

1) Neither USDA nor CNS have sought to have AmeriCorps Members work "at USDA" - our AmeriCorps Members work directly in each community or directly on public lands. AmeriCorps Members funded by USDA typically work in partnership with independent sector organizations, religious groups, soil conservation districts, community development organizations, etc. **These organizations --- usually in rural areas --- would not be able to provide critical services without the help of both AmeriCorps and USDA.**

2) In our first year of operation, the total Federal spending (from both USDA and CNS) on the USDA AmeriCorps program --- including tools, equipment, supplies, staff support, and educational awards and stipends for the AmeriCorps members --- was \$29.311 million. Thus, the total Federal cost per AmeriCorps Member was \$24,426. **Given that the 1,2000 AmeriCorps Members in the program recruited 14,176 non-compensated volunteers, the total Federal cost per citizen engaged in service was only \$1,906.**

Moreover, given that the service provided by the program helped 828,000 people and aided 234,000 acres of land, the Federal government spent only \$17 per person aided and only \$62 per acre helped.

In addition, USDA and partner organizations have calculated that the service provided by USDA AmeriCorps projects is far more valuable the amount of tax dollars spent on the program. For instance, USDA AmeriCorps “dry fire hydrant projects” will save rural homeowners an estimated \$48 million in one year in reduced insurance payments. **Given that the total Federal cost for these fire protection projects was \$1.7 million, the projects will return an astounding \$27 to rural homeowners in one year for every one dollar spent on the program by the Federal government.**

Furthermore, while Federal agencies such as USDA have not been legally required to supplement Federal funding with non-Federal funding, in the first two years of the USDA program many, state and local agencies, as well as private sources, chose independently to provide additional matching funds to USDA AmeriCorps projects. The General Accounting Office found that, in their first year of operation, USDA AmeriCorps projects obtained \$979,355 in state and local funding and \$740,250 from non-governmental private sources, equaling \$1.7 million in non-Federal matching funds. These matching funds not only reduced the burden on Federal taxpayers, but testified to the strong grassroots local and private sector support for USDA AmeriCorps projects.

3) The Committee on Appropriations Subcommittees on Agriculture in both Houses of Congress have been informed about USDA spending on AmeriCorps in the previous two fiscal years and have never raised any objection to such spending. We therefore do not believe it is accurate to believe that the committee opposes USDA continuing to use the Department’s own, already-appropriated, funds to support AmeriCorps projects that provide critical services to citizens.

As you may be aware, in addition to year-long AmeriCorps rural development projects, USDA sponsored a highly successful summer AmeriCorps program this year focused on recovering excess food that normally would be discarded and distributing that food to citizens in need.

For your information, enclosed is a report detailing the achievements of this special summer program, including the project in Iowa.

This “Summer of Gleaning” program worked in partnership with hundreds of locally based anti-hunger groups, youth service corps, church groups, farm organizations, food banks, and food recovery organizations --- most of which are in under-served rural areas.

The AmeriCorps members in this summer program helped recover over 1,005 tons of food, which provided an estimated 1.34 million meals. **The non-profit organizations who served as partners of this program would NOT have been able to recover this food without the help of AmeriCorps and USDA.**

Given that the total Federal dollars spent on this summer program --- including collection, transportation, and storage of food, and stipends and educational awards for the AmeriCorps members --- was \$430,000, the total Federal cost per meal provided was approximately 43 cents each.

Furthermore, the program was based on the “volunteer generator model” of community service in which a handful of compensated AmeriCorps members recruit numerous non-compensated volunteers to help implement large-scale tasks. **The 88 AmeriCorps members in the summer program recruited well over 500 non-compensated community volunteers who helped pick, sort, deliver, and prepare the recovered foods.**

We hope that Senator Grassley will consider these achievements as both USDA and the Corporation for National Service continue to work with your office to suggest mutually agreeable ways in which USDA can aid such projects in the future.

I hope we can continue to discuss these and other issues regarding our program. In the meantime, please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC

November 7, 1996

Mr. Vince Ancell
Director, Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Room 213A, ADMBG
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Ancell:

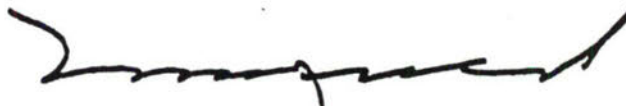
Enclosed is a copy of a letter that I have received from constituents of mine regarding delays in funding for EnviroCorps, a USDA/AmeriCorps program that works with local sponsors on environmental education and enhancement in the Portland (Oregon) area.

As you will note, Messrs. Cannon and Dallaire report that EnviroCorps is currently waiting to start its third year but cannot do so until a consensus is reached between the USDA and Senators Bond and Grassley and funds are released.

Because of my interest in this matter, I would encourage the Department in doing whatever is possible to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

With best regards.

Sincerely,



Mark O. Hatfield
United States Senator

MOH/aw

Ann Walsh
503-326-3386

LaMarr Cannon
Jeff Dallaire
1315 SE Pine St.
Portland, OR. 97214

Senator Mark Hatfield
121 SW Salmon St. Suite 1420
Portland, OR. 97204

October 24, 1996

Dear Senator Hatfield:

We are writing to you to express our concern over the delay of funding for EnviroCorps. EnviroCorps is a USDA/AmeriCorps program that works with local sponsors on environmental education and enhancement in the Portland area.

In the last year alone, this twenty-member team improved 23 acres of wetland, planted 3,367 trees and shrubs, recruited 1,795 volunteers, led 1,159 students on service learning projects, canvassed 10,326 homes in Portland to disconnect their downspouts to reduce sewage overflow and filled 2,000 sandbags during the February floods to protect buildings and the sewage treatment facility.

EnviroCorps works with local partners such as Metro Regional Government, the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Portland State University, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, the Environmental Middle School, Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center, Friends of Trees, Friends of Smith and Bybee, local business owners and others.

The reason for the funding delay is complicated but stems from concerns that the USDA cannot effectively run AmeriCorps programs. The USDA is currently seeking to reach a consensus with Senators Christopher Bond (MO) and Charles Grassley (IA), to allow USDA to continue to provide technical assistance, funding, and administrative support services to AmeriCorps programs. Program funds have already been set aside, no additional funds are necessary and projects and work done by EnviroCorps are chosen by the team and its local partners, not by the USDA.

EnviroCorps is currently waiting to start its third year but cannot do so until consensus is reached. The delay in funding has already caused several qualified candidates to seek employment elsewhere and left EnviroCorps unable to provide support and assistance to its local partners. Further delays may jeopardize the future of EnviroCorps. Anything that your office can do to help bring about this consensus would be greatly appreciated by the community that benefits from their spirit of volunteerism.

Thank you.



LaMarr Cannon



Jeff Dallaire

JOHN McCain
ARIZONA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

November 4, 1996

Mr. Vince Ancell
Director
Department of Agriculture
Office of Congressional Relations
ADMBG, Room 213-A
Washington, D.C. 20250-0001

Dear Mr. Ancell:

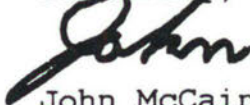
I wish to bring to your attention a matter concerning my constituent, Helen Crofford, who has expressed her concerns regarding potential changes to Department of Agriculture /Americorps partnerships.

Please investigate, in accordance with existing rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines, the statements made in the enclosed letter and return the response to me at the following address:

Attn: Kevin Adam
Office of Senator John McCain
1839 S. Alma School Rd.
Suite 375
Mesa, AZ 85210

The response you provide will be greatly appreciated and will be forwarded to my constituent. If you should have any questions, please contact my office at (602) 491-4300. I look forward to your reply at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



John McCain
United States Senator

JM/zka
Enclosure

241 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0303
(202) 224-2235
1839 SOUTH ALMA SCHOOL ROAD
SUITE 375
... MESA, AZ 85210
(602) 491-4300
2400 EAST ARIZONA
BILTMORE CIRCLE
SUITE 1150
PHOENIX, AZ 85016
(602) 952-2410
450 WEST PASEO REDONDO
SUITE 200
TUCSON, AZ 85701
(520) 670-6334
TELEPHONE FOR HEARING IMPAIRED
(202) 224-7132
(602) 952-0170



Navajo County Natural Resource Conservation District
51 W. Vista - Holbrook, AZ 86025 - Phone (520) 524-2652

October 29, 1996

Honorable John McCain
United States Senator
1839 S Alma School Rd Ste 375
Mesa AZ 85210

Dear Honorable John McCain:

The Navajo County Natural Resource Conservation District Board would like you to consider, and hopefully support us on the following issue.

For the last two years, USDA, through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has utilized the services of various individuals serving as Americorps Members in Navajo County. These folks have furthered the cause of resource conservation with local individuals and groups by serving in roles that NRCS has never employed, except as volunteers (and as such, with very limited success).

Americorps workers under USDA-NRCS have established the need for a continuing demonstration of sustainable agriculture in this remote part of rural Arizona. Our Demonstration Farm has a capable farm manager available at this time that will continue the work of the last two years: over 350 people visited the Farm in 1996 alone, and the Farm newsletter "As it Grows" is currently mailed to over 300 people. Numerous classes from local schools and tours from the surrounding area (including the Navajo Nation) get first-hand experience here on what goes into the production of the nation's food.

Our new designated farm manager cannot begin work because it is our understanding that Senator Bond and Senator Grasley do not feel that the Americorps program warrants participation by USDA. Be assured that the Americorps program is serving the concerns of rural Arizona. We ask for your support in continuing the USDA-Americorps partnership in Navajo County.

Sincerely,

Helen Crofford
Chairperson, Navajo County NRCD

CHRISTOPHER S. BOND

MISSOURI

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING, HOUSING AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
SMALL BUSINESS
BUDGET
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2503

October 23, 1996

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
433 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

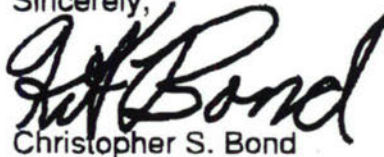
Dear Pat:

After reviewing your proposal to allow the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to use its own appropriated funds to support AmeriCorps projects, I fear that this approach is contrary to the objectives we have pursued to reform AmeriCorps to generate support of funding for AmeriCorps.

I understand your objective and agree the USDA AmeriCorps programs are beneficial and serve the community well. Be assured that when Congress convenes in January, I will work with Members to ascertain new ways of funding these programs.

I look forward to working with you during the 105th Congress. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Shawn Gilleylen of my staff at 4-5721.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. S. Bond", written over the printed name.

Christopher S. Bond

Pilot program authority

Educational programs -

List of Projects



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

**To: Brett Brewer
 Office of Senator Gramm**

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

5 pages, including this cover

As we discussed, USDA has sponsored extremely successful AmeriCorps projects in Texas focused on protecting Galveston Bay and helping the economic and social development of rural communities such as Gonzales.

Ironically, even as Congress has reached bipartisan agreement to continue the overall AmeriCorps program, all USDA AmeriCorps projects are in immediate jeopardy unless we can reach a compromise with Senators Grassley and Bond to allow USDA to continue to provide assistance to local AmeriCorps projects. (See attached fact sheet.)

Please call me at 202-720-5746 with any questions.

June 7, 1996

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Chairman, Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, HUD, and Independent Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
H-143 Capitol Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
 SERVICE

Dear Mr. *Jerry* Chairman;

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, HUD, and Independent Agencies, on May 2. I appreciate your continued support for national service and look forward to working closely with you to keep national service on a firm, non-partisan basis.

As I indicated in my testimony, the Corporation will no longer award grants to federal agencies to support AmeriCorps programs. However, I am currently exploring one approach to ensuring the availability of programs to respond to the needs of underserved areas.

The Department of Agriculture currently supports a number of very effective service programs in more than 40 states, using funds already appropriated to it. Many of these programs have been designated as AmeriCorps programs, even though the Corporation contributes only minimal support to them. In many places, particularly rural areas and national forest land, these programs represent the only AmeriCorps presence. It would be extremely helpful to the Corporation if the USDA is able to use funds from its current appropriations to support AmeriCorps projects designed to meet important needs of these areas. To be clear, the Corporation would ensure that none of our funds are used to supplement USDA efforts, though AmeriCorps Members successfully completing such projects will still be eligible to receive the educational benefit directly from the National Service Trust Fund.

We are developing our strategy to expand the "Education Award Only" component of AmeriCorps to expand the number of service opportunities and hold down our costs. Being able to offer education awards to young people serving in USDA projects would certainly help them recruit the highest quality participants.

1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
Telephone 202-606-5000

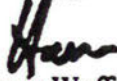
PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Getting Things Done.
AmeriCorps, National Service
Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps

- 2 -

I would be grateful for your thoughts as we begin to develop and implement this strategy. Again, I appreciated the opportunity to appear before your Subcommittee, and look forward to working with you to strengthen AmeriCorps and ensure that the Corporation for National Service is capably carrying out its mission.

Sincerely,



Harris Wofford
Chief Executive Officer

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



STATE OF KANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

Operations Office
512 SE 25th Avenue
Pratt, KS 67124-8174
316/672-5911 FAX 316/672-6020



October 4, 1996

The Honorable Christopher Bond
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Grassley
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bond:

I appreciate the efforts of yourself, Senator Grassley, and Congressman Lewis to examine the relationship between USDA and the Corporation for National Service regarding the AmeriCorps program. At this time in America, it is critical that government operate ethically and above board, without the intent, act or perception of wrongdoing.

However, as I am certain you will find, the relationship between USDA, CNS and the AmeriCorps projects administered at the state level is reasonable and desirable. This partnership allows rural Americans to perform needed community services for an honest wage and broaden their potentials for the future in the process. When these AmeriCorps members have completed their educations, they will be ready to take their places as productive members of society, with not only the classwork behind them, but also the experience earned in the successful completion of their AmeriCorps projects.

Without the assistance of the USDA and CNS, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks would not be able to hire these young people, lacking the funding to do so. The department can, however, provide raw materials, tools and supervision. Important projects underway now, and others that might be completed in the future, would die without being completed. Rural communities would lose the employment options provided by AmeriCorps, the public would lose the benefits provided to the natural resources and outdoor recreation projects, and the individuals who would have been selected as members would lose valuable opportunities. The language proposed by USDA correlates to previous agreements, and fully supports the principles under which AmeriCorps was conceived, while ending the transfer of operating funds from CNS to USDA.

No additional funding is needed to support the AmeriCorps program, and the positive impact it makes is tremendous. I hope that you will find that you are able to fully support continuation of AmeriCorps as a viable program important to the American people.

Sincerely,

Rob Mages
Assistant Secretary for Operations

RMG:
cc: Jerry Hoyer
File: 8076



Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts

802 W. Bannock, Hoff Building, Suite 1006
P.O. Box 2637
Boise, ID 83701
(208) 338-5900

(208) 338-9537 FAX

Conservation - Development - Self-Government

October 4, 1996

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Rod B. Robison
2697 W. 6300 S.
Rexburg, ID 83440

Vice-President

Kevin Koester
P.O. Box 697
Lava Hot Springs, ID
83246

Secretary

Kyle Hawley
1180 Lewis Road
Moscow, ID 83843

Treasurer

Roger Stutzman
1937-B East 4100 North
ID 83316

Director

Art Beal
P.O. Box 9
Sweet, ID 83670

Director

Alice M. Wallace
1005 North Fifth Avenue
Sandpoint, ID 83864

Executive Director

J. Kent Foster

Idaho Home*A*Syst

Project Specialist
J. Kent Foster

The Honorable Larry E. Craig
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Craig:

The Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD), representing the 51 local Conservation Districts in Idaho needs your help in allowing the USDA to continue to aid grass-roots groups sponsoring AmeriCorps projects. As we understand the current situation, the USDA and Corporation for National and Community Service (CNS) do NOT need any additional funds, nor do they need Congress to take any formal legislative action.

The USDA and CNS simply need to reach an informal consensus with key members of Congress (Senator Christopher Bond; Senator Charles Grassley; and Congressman Jerry Lewis) on this issue. The issue of allowing the USDA to participate in the AmeriCorps program for FY 1997 needs to be resolved now. We are already behind in implementing this years program and recruiting new AmeriCorps members.

The IASCD sponsors the Homestead Assessment System (Home*A*Syst) project, a wellhead/environmental protection program, because of its tremendous value as a mechanism for community outreach teaching voluntary protection of drinking water. Last year we partnered directly with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to have 15 AmeriCorps members deliver the Home*A*Syst program to rural and urban communities state-wide. This is a community service that otherwise would not be provided. As a result of this program, this past year some 158,593 Idaho citizens have been exposed to and made aware of the Home*A*Syst program and 1,332 citizens have participated by completing voluntary assessments.

The IASCD is asking that you request Senator Bond, Senator Grassley, and Congressman Lewis to reach an informal consensus that would allow CNS to enter into a *non-monetary* cooperative agreement with the USDA. This *non-monetary* cooperative agreement will allow the Department to provide technical assistance, funding, administrative support services and other assistance to national service programs sponsored by non-profit organizations, state, local, and tribal governments, and the local managers of public lands, and to allow participants in those programs to receive National Service educational awards from the National Service Trust.

This informal consensus must be reached as quickly as possible as the future approach and success of our efforts here in Idaho are very much dependant on the USDA AmeriCorps program. We appreciate your timely attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Kent Foster".

J. Kent Foster
Executive Director

cc: Rod Robison, IASCD President, Rexburg



National Road

HERITAGE PARK

3543 National Road & Nelson Road
Box 528 • Farmington, PA 15437
Phone: 412 329-1560 • 412 329-1552
Fax: 412 329-1561

Joel Berg
U.S.D.A. Director of National Services
Room 538 A
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Berg:

October 7, 1996

In 1996, the National Road Heritage Park was fortunate to employ five U.S.D.A. AmeriCorps workers to assist in carrying out the mission of the NRHP.

These five young people were instrumental in implementing numerous programs and performing valuable services benefiting the three-county area, including:

1. Creating a low-interest loan program for restoration of residential and commercial properties
2. Cleaning up junkyards and dump sites along the National Road
3. Conducting research and making application on behalf of three National Road communities to be nominated to the National Register as Historic Districts (some of which had been seeking the National Register nomination for years)
4. Assisting the local community center in remodeling the community building
5. Developing heritage school programming in the three-county area.

Without the participation of AmeriCorps volunteers this year, there is no doubt that these and other programs would never have been successfully implemented.

The National Road corridor is economically distressed with an unemployment average of over 9%. Without sufficient tax base and infrastructure, we need the assistance of programs such as AmeriCorps to develop resources and heritage tourism.

We therefore urge you to support and work to ensure that the AmeriCorps program receives further funding. Currently, enactment of renewed funding is in the hands of Senator Christopher bond of Missouri. We ask you to use your good offices to encourage Senator Bond to release the AmeriCorps bill for vote and approval.

Your cooperation and interest are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Grenoble
Executive Director

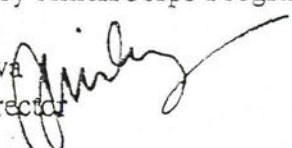


February 13, 1996

AmeriCorps National Service

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
SERVICE

TO: Federal Agency AmeriCorps Program Managers

FROM: Shirley Sagawa
Executive Director 

RE: Continuing Effective Local Sites of Existing
Federal Agency AmeriCorps Programs

As promised at the January 24 meeting here at the Corporation, I wanted to notify each of you of decisions ratified by the Corporation's Board of Directors during their recent meeting in North Carolina. This information will be discussed in greater detail at your meeting here on Wednesday, Feb. 14, but this will let you begin your preparations to transition from the current structure.

As you know, many of the programs launched at the local level through federal agencies have proven very successful thus far. However, for the renewal application process about to begin, we unfortunately have come to the conclusion that it would not be prudent to make direct grants of funds to federal agencies for AmeriCorps programs, given the likelihood that such a prohibition will be included in our appropriations bill, should it pass this year. At the same time, we are committed to providing the best possible opportunity for the most effective local sites to continue as AmeriCorps sponsors for the future, ideally with your continued support and assistance. In brief, these options are as follow:

1. Individual sites of existing programs may submit renewal requests to the Corporation as individual direct applicants.
2. Individual sites may voluntarily form a consortium of sites, under an existing site or under an otherwise eligible applicant, and submit a joint renewal request to the Corporation.
3. Agencies may establish Education Award Only programs.

We are confident that these options provide the opportunity for the continuation of current sites that have established solid track records, that can develop effective

1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
Telephone 202-606-5000

Getting Things Done.
AmeriCorps, National Service
Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps

plans for the future, and that otherwise meet Corporation application guidelines. Corporation staff will help you determine the most appropriate options for your individual sites. While budget reductions affect each program within the Corporation and the overall budget picture seems likely to remain fluid for some time, I assure you that the most deserving programs, whatever their origin, will have the greatest likelihood of receiving renewal awards.

We look forward to discussing these options, and other ideas you may have. Please contact Hank Oltmann (x201) or Rafael Casas-Don (x443) with any questions before the Feb. 14 meeting.

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC

RECEIVED THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
NOV 14 A 11:31
COPIES: _____

November 7, 1996

Mr. Vince Ancell
Director, Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Room 213A, ADMBG
Washington, D.C. 20250

Action Office: nrcs
Referral Code: 25



Dear Mr. Ancell:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter that I have received from constituents of mine regarding delays in funding for EnviroCorps, a USDA/AmeriCorps program that works with local sponsors on environmental education and enhancement in the Portland (Oregon) area.

As you will note, Messrs. Cannon and Dallaire report that EnviroCorps is currently waiting to start its third year but cannot do so until a consensus is reached between the USDA and Senators Bond and Grassley and funds are released.

Because of my interest in this matter, I would encourage the Department in doing whatever is possible to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

Mark O. Hatfield
United States Senator

MOH/aw

LaMarr Cannon
Jeff Dallaire
1315 SE Pine St.
Portland, OR. 97214

Senator Mark Hatfield
121 SW Salmon St. Suite 1420
Portland, OR. 97204

October 24, 1996

Dear Senator Hatfield:

We are writing to you to express our concern over the delay of funding for EnviroCorps. EnviroCorps is a USDA/AmeriCorps program that works with local sponsors on environmental education and enhancement in the Portland area.

In the last year alone, this twenty-member team improved 23 acres of wetland, planted 3,367 trees and shrubs, recruited 1,795 volunteers, led 1,159 students on service learning projects, canvassed 10,326 homes in Portland to disconnect their downspouts to reduce sewage overflow and filled 2,000 sandbags during the February floods to protect buildings and the sewage treatment facility.

EnviroCorps works with local partners such as Metro Regional Government, the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Portland State University, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, the Environmental Middle School, Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center, Friends of Trees, Friends of Smith and Bybee, local business owners and others.

The reason for the funding delay is complicated but stems from concerns that the USDA cannot effectively run AmeriCorps programs. The USDA is currently seeking to reach a consensus with Senators Christopher Bond (MO) and Charles Grassley (IA), to allow USDA to continue to provide technical assistance, funding, and administrative support services to AmeriCorps programs. Program funds have already been set aside, no additional funds are necessary and projects and work done by EnviroCorps are chosen by the team and its local partners, not by the USDA.

EnviroCorps is currently waiting to start its third year but cannot do so until consensus is reached. The delay in funding has already caused several qualified candidates to seek employment elsewhere and left EnviroCorps unable to provide support and assistance to its local partners. Further delays may jeopardize the future of EnviroCorps. Anything that your office can do to help bring about this consensus would be greatly appreciated by the community that benefits from their spirit of volunteerism.

Thank you.


LaMarr Cannon


Jeff Dallaire