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MEMORANDUM

TO: Herbert Block
Corporation for National Service

FROM: Elizabeth Jones
USDA Office of National Service

DATE: March 21, 1995

RE: Information for Appropriations Committee Hearing

USDA has two AmeriCorps cluster sites in the First Congressional District of California. These two sites have a total of 28 members working in Public Lands and Environment teams. Additionally, another cluster site is about to be added in Weaverville, California.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has cluster sites in Santa Rosa and Ukiah, California. Four members are working on watershed projects at both of these sites. Specifically, the two members in Santa Rosa are working on the Russian River and its tributaries. NRCS is about to open a new cluster site with a total of seven new members. Four of these members will be working in Humboldt County where one member will be assigned to the Hoopa Indian Reservation; one will be placed in Southern Trinity County and two will be working in Shasta County.

Twenty-four Members work with the Forest Service in Six Rivers National Forest. These members are working with fish habitats, recreation facility maintenance and enhancement, threatened and endangered species, trail maintenance, and environmental education.

If you need more information, please call me at 690-3507.

Suite 1321, Federal Building
100 West Capitol Street
Jackson, MS 39269

November 16, 1995

The Honorable Thad Cochran
United States Senate
Suite 614, 118 E. Capitol Street
Jackson, MS 39201-2125

Dear Senator Cochran:

Thank you for your letter regarding your constituent Mr. Frank Oakes of McComb, Mississippi.

The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA, NRCS) AmeriCorps Programs is the President's national service initiative to achieve direct results in addressing the nation's critical education, human service, public safety, and environmental needs at the community level. AmeriCorps provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their country in organized efforts, fostering citizen responsibility and building their communities. Americans age 17 or older can make a substantial commitment to their country and earn education awards for college or vocational training in return. USDA will play a key role in the overall AmeriCorps program. The USDA, NRCS in Mississippi has approval for ten members for this year with seven of these member selected. The makeup of these members are two white males, two black females and three white females.

Members may be eligible to serve for more than one term; however, mere eligibility for an additional term of service does not guarantee selection or placement. The USDA, NRCS cannot guarantee any person that they would be selected as a member for this year prior to receiving an application and going through an interview process. The determination to select persons for more than one term is made by the project director in consultation with other staff members involved with the successful completion of an AmeriCorps project. Persons serving in the AmeriCorps program are selected rather than hired and are providing a community service rather than performing a job.

The NRCS has tried to provide the AmeriCorps experience to as many persons as possible in the state. In order to do that and bring in new and fresh ideas, the NRCS has decided to work to involve new members to work each term on the projects that are approved from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

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The Honorable Thad Cochran
Page 2

It appears that Mr. Frank Oakes has a sincere desire to provide service to his community as an AmeriCorps member. I cannot guarantee that he will be able to be an AmeriCorps member at his desired location, but I am willing to help him serve in some capacity with the Rural Fire Protection effort in Southwest Mississippi. The NRCS utilizes volunteers in every county of the state. The main difference in our regular volunteer program and the AmeriCorps program is that the AmeriCorps programs provides a cost of living stipend of \$6.62 per hour.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

HLW

Homer L. Wilkes
State Conservationist

mlh

ls

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Lew, Lloyd

**POTENTIAL COMMITTEE QUESTIONS TO MR. DUNN
ABOUT THE RECD AMERICORPS PROGRAM**

Q: Explain how your agencies are involved in the AmeriCorps national service program?

A: RECD is sponsoring 122 AmeriCorps Members serving in rural areas, including in newly-designated Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities, in 15 states. The Members are mostly college graduates and professional school graduates and are working on a wide-range of issues related to our mission areas, such as: running water and indoor plumbing, community improvement and personal responsibility development, and outreach for rural housing grant and loan and farm assistance programs. After only a few months of service, we can report that the Members are already "getting things done" meeting critical local needs, while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

Some examples:

- * A Member in Marion, Arkansas helped provide outreach for aid to build a rural water line that furnished seven households -- with 22 residents -- with running water for the first time.

- * A Member in Gallup, New Mexico conducted training on loan packaging for 19 community residents including representatives from local non-profit groups, church leaders, and Native American Community leaders.

- * A Member in Holmes County, Mississippi devised a plan to reduce employee turnover at the Durant Electric Corporation, the largest employer in the county --- with 600 employees and a payroll of \$8 million. The plan not only convinced the company to reverse its plans to move to Mexico, but allowed the company to plan to hire 400 new employees. Thus, the one USDA AmeriCorps Member directly saved or created 1,000 jobs.

- * In Boone, North Carolina, a Member is working with the local Enterprise Community (EC) applicant to implement their strategic plan for economic development. Working in cooperation with the Boone Housing Authority, the Member is organizing and making functional a Community Development Corporation (CDC) to assist the low-income residents of Boone. To date, over \$1.8 million has been awarded for water and sewer infrastructure and housing assistance as a result of her help.

- * In Texas, one Member has begun grant applications to start a revolving loan fund providing seed money to create new small businesses locally.
- * In Allendale/Blackville, South Carolina, a Member established a downtown redevelopment effort concentrating on an historical abandoned hotel. In Penn Center, South Carolina, a Member is completing a survey of community land ownership to stabilize development and establish a plan for a cooperative effort for agriculture processing and development.
- * A Member in Natchez, Mississippi is working to reduce teenage pregnancy; she spoke personally about her efforts with Senate Majority Whip Trent Lott who "promised to support (her) efforts in Natchez and declared he would be in Natchez in any events that take place if his schedule permits." The Member has also formed a task force to work on reestablishing a YMCA center in Natchez.
- * In Pendleton, Oregon, a Member helped two low-income individuals receive a loan and one individual to receive a grant to repair their homes. In Elgin, Oregon, Member assisted HELP, inc. in obtaining a Housing Preservation Grant that allowed 11 low income and very low income families to repair and rehabilitate their homes. The Member verified eligibility, determined preservation needs, identified environmental effects, and awarded bids to housing contractors.
- * A Member in Arkansas helped improve the standard of living for 950 low income families by the end of this quarter in obtaining Home Energy Assistance (HEAP) and to provide assistance through the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP).
- * In Williamson, West Virginia, a Member helped 30 families apply for rental housing assistance.
- * In Webb, Mississippi, a Member helped six low-income citizens join the section 523 self help housing program. Member has also provided counseling to the families that have homes under construction to acquaint them with the responsibilities that go along with home ownership.
- * In Baker City, New Mexico, a Member has recruited three property owners who have agreed to use their properties as pilot locations for historic renovations.

* Members in El Centro, California have been conducting outreach to expand usage of the 504 program to provided grants and loans for low income families to repair their homes; by the end of the first quarter, two applications for repair had been approved and the work completed, two more had just been approved, and four more were in the process of being approved.

* In Kentucky, Members developed an infrastructure database, served as project manager for a historic building renovation, and administered the Folk Life Study on historical buildings, people, and local folklore.

Q: How much money is RECD spending on this program?

A: For the 1994 - 1995 AmeriCorps program year, RECD is spending \$2.1 out of our Salaries and Expenses account to support 122 AmeriCorps positions. This small investment --- equalling only about \$17,000 a year in RECD spending --- is very cost-effective way to deliver critical services to communities while allowing Americans of all backgrounds -- including many from middle class families --- to earn their way through post-secondary education.

Q: Is AmeriCorps taking money away from existing RECD programs and thus forcing you to serve fewer citizens with those programs?

A: No, AmeriCorps is helping us more effectively deliver the programs we already have and helping us provide outreach that has resulted in more citizens benefiting from our programs --- without an overall increase in our spending.

Q: If AmeriCorps is supposed to be a community-based, non-bureaucratic initiative, than why are you using the program to create 122 more bureaucrats for your agencies?

A: AmeriCorps Members are not Federal employees and they are not performing tasks that are routinely performed by Federal employees. Rather, AmeriCorps Members are performing service that meets critical community needs, but which our agency does not now have the resources to meet. In many cases, our Members are not even working directly in Federal offices, but are working for county agencies and local non-profit organizations. Moreover, the service projects were not designed or implemented in Washington -- all our projects are locally-proposed and locally-administered.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

TO: Rusty Mathews
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on V.A., H.U.D., and
Independent Agencies

FROM: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA JB

RE: *USDA AmeriCorps Projects in Maryland*

4 pages, including this cover

As you continue to negotiate the future of Federal agency-sponsored AmeriCorps projects, I thought it would be useful for you to have information on the USDA AmeriCorps projects in Maryland.

Last year, USDA sponsored projects in Beltsville and on the Eastern Shore in Centreville. We have renewed those two projects this year, and started a new one in Waldorf in southern Prince Georges County. In first year of AmeriCorps, USDA's Members in Maryland completed projects that improved wildlife habitat, collected soil samples and scouted for pests on area farms, constructed wildlife trails, planted marsh grass to prevent soil erosion, built fences, cleared trails, and inventoried fish habitats. Attached are the first two quarterly reports for the Centreville project. This year, we have even more ambitious projects, including one focused on reducing fire risks in rural communities. at a stub in

Given that most AmeriCorps projects sponsored by state commissions are urban, USDA projects in rural communities are particularly unique and valuable. If our component of AmeriCorps were to be eliminated, very few AmeriCorps projects would serve rural communities in Maryland or the rest of the nation. If Senator Mikulski or any member of your staff like to visit any of our sites, we would be happy to make the necessary arrangements. If you have any questions about our program, please call me at 720-5746.

District of Columbia/Maryland AmeriCorps Sites
Third Quarter Report
April 1 - June 30, 1995

Objectives Section

Centreville, Maryland Community Service Objectives:

1. Implement a habitat structure in German Branch to improve fish and wildlife habitat. A site for streambank planting will be identified and planted.
2. Utilize cost-share and incentive programs to develop and implement innovative best management practices.
3. Continue monitoring 12 wells within German Branch to evaluate the effectiveness of the conservation practices. Develop an educational program to showcase success of the HUA.

Progress towards meeting community service objectives:

This AmeriCorps team (originally five members) began their term of service on June 5, 1995. They spent their first week of service in orientation which included, among many topics, CPR and first aid training, work site safety, sexual harassment and discrimination, team building, meeting community project sponsors, and goal setting.

During their first brief quarter, just four weeks, they have accomplished much. Although they have not yet begun work to meet the objectives above, they are learning to work together through new situations, with new people, and in a new work environment. To practice and perfect these skills, the team, with guidance from their Project Director Tracy Davenport and various project sponsors, has completed the following projects. It is our goal to solidify this team before embarking on more difficult projects. With this approach, we expect great success in the months to come.

1. Completed 40 hours of work at the Queen Anne's County Museum to prepare for visitors and learn about the history of Queen Anne's County.
2. Built four (4) bird boxes to improve wildlife habitat in cooperation with the Maryland Eastern Shore Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area.
3. Assisted the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service by taking soil samples and scouting for pests on five (5) farms in the German Branch Watershed.

District of Columbia/Maryland AmeriCorps Sites
Third Quarter Report
April 1 - June 30, 1995
Centreville Objectives - Page 2

4. Constructed approximately 2,000 feet of a wildlife trail which will provide access for the community of Centreville to an existing streambank. This project is in cooperation with the Town of Centreville.

Note: One (1) member resigned within the first three (3) weeks. She decided to change her plans and begin college this fall instead of postponing further education.

District of Columbia/Maryland AmeriCorps Sites
Fourth Quarter Report
July 1 - September 30, 1995

Objectives Section

Centreville Community Service Objectives:

1. Implement a habitat structure in German Branch to improve fish and wildlife habitat. A site for streambank planting will be identified and planted.
2. Utilize cost-share and incentive programs to develop and implement innovative best management practices.
3. Continue monitoring 12 wells within German Branch to evaluate the effectiveness of the conservation practices. Develop an educational program to showcase success of the HUA.

Progress towards meeting these community service objectives:

1. Completed over 100 hours of construction on a wildlife trail. This trail will enable the community of Centreville to have access to an existing stream. The project is in cooperation with the Town of Centreville.
2. Spent 70 hours planting marsh grass to stabilize slopes. Cleared two (2) miles of hiking trails and learned the history of Wye Island.
3. Assisted the Queen Anne's County Cooperative Extension Service to prepare for the County Fair.
4. Tuckahoe State Park received 40 hours of time to improve the park. They built fences, cleared trails, and improved a future visitor center.
5. Provided 21 hours of work at Adkins Arboretum to improve the areas and reduce soil erosion on steep trails.
6. Cleared trails and assisted with other improvements at Pickering Creek Environmental Education Center for 30 hours.
7. Worked with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to inventory five (5) sites for fish habitat and diversity of species.

December 20, 1995

To: Gene Sofer
From: Joel Berg JB
Subject: **Response to Simpson Letter**

Simpson's letter makes two basic points that appear on their face to be substantive and serious --- but are, in reality, based on serious misunderstandings of both AmeriCorps and programs that Simpson inaccurately claims are just like AmeriCorps.

Simpson's first point --- that many other Federal service programs duplicate the type of service provided by AmeriCorps --- is simply factually inaccurate. None of the programs cited by Simpson duplicate AmeriCorps efforts; in fact, the only one cited by him that is even close--- VISTA --- was substantially improved by its inclusion in AmeriCorps.

Ironically, if there *were* only one type of service program instead of many different types, conservatives would likely blast the Administration for trying to "dictate a one size fits all policy from Washington." Thus, Simpson should rejoice at knowing that there are different types of service programs to fit different types of local needs.

Moreover, **the real point is that more service programs are needed because more service is needed.** Simpson can't seriously be arguing that the government or the private sector has solved all the nation's problems and therefore we don't need any programs to address those problems. Assuming he is not making that argument --- and further assuming that he shares that general conservative belief that volunteers and charities should pick up the slack as government downsizes, then he should support expanding --- not eliminating -- programs that provide a modest Federal catalyst to enable volunteers and charity groups to do so.

Perhaps we would eliminate a few small service programs in other Departments and use those funds to help pay for AmeriCorps. But the larger point remains that --- **as long as neither the government or the private sector alone have the resources to combat such problems as hunger, environmental degradation, crime, and illiteracy ---- effective public/private partnerships such as AmeriCorps should be expanded to combat these problems.**

By implying that that because the Peace Corps exists we don't need AmeriCorps, Simpson is, in essence, stating that either America doesn't have significant problems that need to be solved or that the rest of the world's problems are more important than America's problems. Given the fact that many inner neighborhoods in the United States have higher infant mortality rates than much of the Third World, either stand would be very hard to justify.

By stating that a few minuscule service programs run by other Federal agencies make the still relatively small AmeriCorps program unnecessary, Simpson simultaneously dramatically overstates that combined size of these programs and dramatically understates the vast amount of unmet needs in the nation.

Moreover, **as enshrined in the the National and Community Service Act --- and as enforced in the real world by vigorous competition --- AmeriCorps projects NEVER duplicate services delivered by other programs.** State and local government agencies, as well as volunteer sector organizations, compete fiercely to receive AmeriCorps grants precisely because they need to perform vital tasks that simply go unperformed without AmeriCorps.

Simpson's reference to the YCC proves the fallacy of his entire theory. First of all, **Simpson is simply incorrect in stating that YCC authorizes granting of a national service educational award.** No such authorization exists and no such awards have ever been given out by the program. Second, the program is very small; it receives no formal appropriations and only uses enough funding from the normal Forest Service budget to engage a few hundred teenagers in a six week summer program. Because the YCC members are younger than AmeriCorps Members --- and because any program taking only six weeks must use a higher proportion of its time in training --- AmeriCorps Members perform more work per dollar spent than do YCC members.

In their first year of service, AmeriCorps Members serving in National Forests constructed or maintained 680 miles of trail, fought fires, reforested 638 acres of land, constructed or completely rehabilitated 456 campground sites, prepared 42 campground sites for accessibility for people with disabilities, improved 668 acres of timber stand, and improved 2,019 acres of wildlife habitat. For each dollar spent on AmeriCorps, the Forest Service would have to have spent between \$1.50 to \$2.30 to perform such work through traditional means. It is obvious that the YCC could not accomplish even a fraction of this service.

Still, YCC is important and should be continued. It serves as a valuable "feeder" program for AmeriCorps, providing an early trial by fire to determine which YCC members might be able to "graduate" to later face the rigors of a year-round AmeriCorps program. Additionally, **even if both YCC and AmeriCorps were expanded massively, they would continue to make only a dent into the massive backlog of vital work needed on public lands.**

Simpson's second major point --- that AmeriCorps is an inefficient way to deliver student aid --- misunderstands the basic purpose of AmeriCorps, which is primarily a service program --- not a student aid program. **Claiming AmeriCorps is an inefficient way to deliver student aid is just as absurd as claiming that the Army College Fund is an inefficient way to provide student aid.** Just as the main value of the Army College Fund is creating a well-trained, well-organized, focused, full-time force to defend America against foreign threats, AmeriCorps' main value is to provide a well-trained, well-organized, focused, full-time force to reduce domestic threats to our well being.

The true value of AmeriCorps should not be measured by how much it costs per AmeriCorps Member or how much it costs per educational award, but how much its costs per citizen served. For instance, **the USDA program in its first year served over one million citizens in anti-hunger, rural development, and environmental projects --- that means total Federal spending equaled only about \$30 for each person served by AmeriCorps. The facts demonstrate that AmeriCorps is a far cheaper service delivery system than virtually any other Federal program.**

Simpson also ignores the reality --- crucial in states such as Wyoming that are virtually all middle class --- that AmeriCorps is essentially the only Federal student aid program that significantly aids middle class families. Most Wyoming families can't qualify for Pell Grants or burden themselves with massive loan debts. In addition, Federal aid programs other than AmeriCorps, in effect, penalize families who save money and work hard; the greater the family's savings and earnings, the less the aid award. **With the exception of the Work Study Program, AmeriCorps is the only Federal student aid program that rewards work.**

Why would conservatives support "give-away" programs more than a program that requires service? It doesn't make sense.

It is obvious from his letter that Senator Simpson has great personal respect and fondness for Harris Wofford. Perhaps if Harris has a serious meeting with Simpson to educate him on the facts, Simpson might change his mind on AmeriCorps as a last act of statesmanship before he retires.

ALAN K. SIMPSON
WYOMINGFAX 720-4614 Joel
control

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-5002

December 7, 1995

RECEIVED
12-14

Harris Wofford
Chief Executive Officer
Corporation For National Service
1201 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20525

Dear Harris:

How are you, my friend? It was good to hear from you! Thank you for contacting me to share some of your thoughts on the AmeriCorps program. I do appreciate your taking the time to get in touch with me on this issue, and I am pleased to respond.

I do indeed support volunteer programs. These good programs benefit both the volunteers and those who receive assistance through their efforts. Groups like Habitat for Humanity, Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA) and the Peace Corps do marvelous work all over the world. Some good things have also come out of the AmeriCorps program, but on the whole I believe AmeriCorps is a prime example of the kind of duplicative effort and excessive bureaucracy that we must bring under control if we are ever to reduce the federal budget deficit.

question

I believe that AmeriCorps is a very expensive addition to several service/education programs already in existence, including 10 similar programs also administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service and eight programs under the Departments of Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Education, and Defense. As you know, the Perkins and Federal Family Education Loan programs already include provisions for loan forgiveness if the graduate goes to work for certain volunteer organizations or in areas of national need. The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) authorizes the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior to operate conservation programs on public lands for 15-18 year olds through the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service, and allows participants to receive a national service educational award. And of course there is the tremendous work done by the Peace Corps and VISTA volunteers. Clearly, we are adding layer upon layer of bureaucracy to administer one program after another that duplicates services -- at considerable expense to the taxpayers.

my

I am also concerned that, of the \$290 million specified for AmeriCorps in 1994, only \$94.5 million was actually budgeted for

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PRESERVATION

Harris Wofford
December 7, 1995
Page 2

educational awards. That's an effective level of less than one-third. This means that the National Service program is, in effect, a jobs program, not an education program as it was originally presented. Participants receive an annual stipend of at least \$7,400 for working an average of 33 hours a week, and are entitled to full health insurance benefits and full child care if needed. They can also continue to participate in the program beyond the two years during which they are eligible to receive the education award.

education
According to the General Accounting Office (GAO), the AmeriCorps program cost \$290 million in federal money plus matching funds from the states to subsidize 20,000 participants in 1994. Estimates of the average cost per participant, including the lost tax revenue on the tax-free wages and benefits, range as high as \$30,000 per participant. By contrast, the Pell Grant program cost \$5.8 billion in 1994, and assisted in paying the educational expenses of 3.8 million post-secondary students -- an average cost of just over \$1,500 per student. The Federal Family Education Loan program costs \$5.1 billion annually and leverages a total of \$23.2 billion in assistance for 6.4 million students -- an average cost to the government of \$797 per student. Clearly, in relative terms, the AmeriCorps program is not a very efficient investment of scarce education dollars.

As you know, the House and Senate conference committee on the Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill eliminates funding for AmeriCorps in fiscal year 1996. Be assured I will be closely monitoring developments related to this issue.

Thanks again for writing, Harris. I always appreciate hearing from you. Be well. Take care. Ann joins in sending our warmest personal regards to you, to Clare and to all your dear ones.

Most sincerely,

[Signature]
Alan K. Simpson
United States Senator

AKS/cmw

Harris
Good to see you the other day -
Love to Clare & from us
both - & you both
AK

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**The Corporation
for National &
Community Service**

1201 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20525
Phone (202) 606-5000

Date: 8/30/95
Time: 4:33 PM
To: **Ms. Denise Bennett**
US Dept. of Agriculture

From: Harrison, Rosa

Pages: 4

Reference: 44138.17215

Subject: Grassley

Fax No: 9-720-4614

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August 29, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: RICK ALLEN

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO GRASSLEY OFFICE RELEASE

Senator Grassley's press secretary tried hard to make news yesterday, recycling old misinterpretations of an earlier version of a General Accounting Office (GAO) study on AmeriCorps, the new domestic Peace Corps. Ms. Kozeny's Media Alert misstated the facts and the GAO's Report, which confirmed the cost estimates AmeriCorps has used for nearly a year -- and which found that AmeriCorps has provided significant benefits to communities all across America.

Here are a few of Ms. Kozeny's biggest mistakes:

1. **GAO didn't undertake a comprehensive cost analysis.** As the GAO Report (now widely available) makes clear, it didn't study costs at all, but available resources -- including private contributions and in-kind help from communities. So, when a local police department lets an AmeriCorps Member use a computer after hours to track crime statistics, GAO counts it as an available resource. Ms. Kozeny would call it a cost. Most Americans would call it a great benefit.

2. **GAO confirmed AmeriCorps projections, rather than debunking them.** This is the biggest whopper of the Media Alert. As the attached information indicates, the GAO Report validates what AmeriCorps officials have told Congress, the media and the public since the initiative launched in September of 1994. In fact, GAO says AmeriCorps is coming in under projections for its own investment, and for the other federal cash support.

So what's gone up? Communities' belief in AmeriCorps local programs in their area. And they've backed it with their own resources. The law called for the local nonprofits in AmeriCorps to prove that they merited federal funding by showing their community support -- and AmeriCorps programs rose to the challenge. Rather than raise the \$35 million the law required, these nonprofits raised \$41 million (in cash and in-kind) from the private sector alone, according to GAO! The efforts also earned the support of states and local communities (police departments, schools and the like) to the tune of a further \$50 million.

Where did Ms. Kozeny's math break down? She didn't read the letter from the Corporation for National Service she selectively (and deceptively) quoted. Written two months before AmeriCorps began, it estimated that the Corporation would invest around \$18,000 per Member -- the \$13,000 quoted, plus (as the letter makes clear) the \$4,725 post-service education award. When the program's launch made more accurate figures possible, AmeriCorps revised this estimate slightly, to \$18,800 -- a figure it has used consistently since. GAO's conclusion? \$17,629 -- more than a thousand dollars less than AmeriCorps' estimate.

Then there's what Ms. Kozeny calls cost per hour -- a concept that GAO states clearly that it never measured. GAO did (at Senator Grassley's insistence) take all resources (cash and in-kind, private and public, in-hand and expected) and divided it by a portion of the minimum hours an AmeriCorps Member could by law serve. As the GAO Report indicates, if the assumptions were changed to track the actual experience of AmeriCorps programs, this figure drops to \$5.54 per hour.

3. **AmeriCorps federal overhead is about 7%.** The attached pie chart shows where the Corporation's investment in AmeriCorps goes. Its overhead is 7%, not the 50% Ms. Kozeny

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PRESERVATION

imagines. GAO did not examine AmeriCorps overhead at all. Ms. Kozeny's new math would define overhead as the difference between available funding (which includes the free use of a school gym on Saturdays and a donation by a local business) and the minimum wage, limited benefits and education award an AmeriCorps Member earns. Nonsense! Once again, the relevant number is the roughly \$18,000 per Member AmeriCorps itself spends. And the difference between that number and direct benefits a Member earns is clearly not overhead: Should AmeriCorps Members fight fires without equipment? Build homes without tools? Clean up polluted rivers with only their bare hands?

Keep your eyes on the federal investment and the program accomplishments. It's clear that AmeriCorps is lean and effective. The attached materials show what an outside evaluation firm headed by President Ford's Commissioner of Education; a panel of noted economists retained by three national foundations; and GAO itself discovered: AmeriCorps works.

One last note about three programs cited at the end of the Media Alert: those figures have been questioned, in detail, by the programs involved. But the real issue is the average AmeriCorps investment (described above) -- and the specific benefits communities have gained from each local program. Ms. Kozeny has missed the real news: every independent study has found AmeriCorps to be a great investment.

Enclosures: August 29, 1995 Press Release
AmeriCorps pie chart

(Please List members, their state, CD#, and USDA AmeriCorps project, if any, in their District or state)

Targeted House Members

Republicans Who Co-Sponsored the 1993 Bill

Gunderson, Wisconsin

Shays, Connecticut

Republicans Who Voted for the 1993 Bill

Republicans Who Voted for the 1990 Bill But Against the 1993 Bill

New GOP Members With USDA Projects in Their Districts

Key Moderate Democratic Supporters

Dave McCurdy (left House)

Tim Penny (left House)

Rob Andrews

Democrats Who Voted Against the 1993 Bill

6/30

Targeted Senate Members

Republicans Who Co-Sponsored the 1993 Bill

Jeffords, Vermont

Durenburger, Minnesota

Spector, Pennsylvania

Chafee, Rhode Island

Republicans Who Voted for the 1993 Bill

Olympia Snowe, Maine

Ted Stevens, Alaska

Kay Bailey Hutchinson, Texas

Mark Hatfield, Oregon (Northwest Service Academy

Republicans Who Voted for 1993 Bill in Committee But Against It On the Floor

Judd Gregg, New Hampshire

Dan Coats, Indiana

Republicans Who Voted for the 1990 Bill But Against the 1993 Bill

Key Members of Agriculture Committee

Key Members of Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture

New GOP Members With USDA Projects in Their Districts

Key Moderate Democratic Supporters

Sam Nunn, Georgia

Charles Robb, Virginia

Barbara Mikulski, Maryland

Democrats Who Voted Against the 1993 Bill

Robert Byrd, West Virginia

James Exxon, Nebraska (Still Member)

Earnest Hollings, South Carolina (issued press release praising)

Bob Kerrey, Nebraska

Key Members of Agriculture Committee

Richard Lugar, Indiana

Pat Leahy, Vermont

Key Members of Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture

Top Republican Gubernatorial Targets

Wilson, California

Weld, Massachusetts

Whitman, New Jersey

Thompson, Wisconsin

**USDA AMERICORPS PROGRAMS, BROKEN DOWN BY
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS IN WHICH PROJECTS
WILL EITHER PROVIDE SERVICE OR RECRUIT PARTICIPANTS**

AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger Project Sites

1. Vermont (Also environmental and rural development)
Senators: Patrick J. Leahy (D)
James M. Jeffords (R)
At Large Representative: Bernard Sanders (I)

2. District of Columbia (Also environmental)
Delegate: Eleanor Holmes Norton (D) (delegate)

3. Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Also flood relief)
Senators: Herb Kohl (D)
Russell D. Feingold (D)
Representatives: Gerald D. Kleczka (D) 4th District
Thomas M. Barrett (D) 5th District

4. Mississippi Delta Area (Sunflower, Humphreys, Hinds Counties)
(Also environmental and rural development)
Senators: Thad Cochran (R)
Trent Lott (R)
Representatives: Bennie Thompson (D) 2nd District

5. Los Angeles, California

Senators: Diane Feinstein (D) (Also environmental and rural development)
Barbara Boxer (D) (Also environmental and rural development)

Representatives:	Anthony C. Bellerson	(D)	24th District
	Howard (Buck) McKeon	(R)	25th "
	Howard L. Berman	(D)	26th "
	Carlos J. Moorhead	(R)	27th "
	David Dreier	(R)	28th "
	Henry A. Waxman	(D)	29th "
	Xavier Becerra	(D)	30th "
	Matthew G. Martinez	(D)	31st "
	Julian C. Dixon	(D)	32nd "
	Lucille Roybal-Allard	(D)	33rd "
	Esteban E. Torres	(D)	34th "
	Maxine Waters	(D)	35th "
	Jane Harman	(D)	36th "
	Walter R. Tucker III	(D)	37th "
	Stephen Horn	(R)	38th "
	Edward R. Royce	(R)	39th "
	Jay C. Kim	(R)	41st "

AmeriCorps Public Lands and the Environment Project Sites

6. Western Kansas

Senators:	Robert J. Dole (R)
	Nancy L. Kassebaum (R)
Representatives:	Pat Roberts (R) 1st District

7. Western Oklahoma

Senators:	David L. Boren (D)
	Don Nickles (R)
Representatives:	Dave McCurdy (D) 4th District

8. Texas Coast

Senators:	Phil Gramm	(R)
	Kay Hutchinson	(R)
Representatives:	Jack Brooks	(D) 9th District
	Greg Laughlin	(D) 14th District
	Tom DeLay	(R) 22nd District
	Michael A. Andrews	(D) 25th District

9. Atlanta, Georgia

Senators:	Sam Nunn (D)
	Paul Coverdell (R)
Representatives:	John Linder (R) 4th District
	John Lewis (D) 5th District

10. Boston, Massachusetts

Senators:	Edward M. Kennedy (D)
	John F. Kerry (D)
Representatives:	Joseph P. Kennedy, II (D) 8th District
	John Joseph Moakley (D) 9th District

11. East St. Louis , Illinois (All food relief)

Senators:	Paul Simon (D)
	Carol Moseley - Braun (D)
Representatives:	Jerry F. Costello (D) 12th District

12. New Jersey, state-wide

Senators:	Bill Bradley (D)
	Frank R. Lautenberg (D)
Representatives:	Christopher H. Smith (R) 4th District
	Marge Roukema (R) 5th District
	Frank Pallone, Jr. (D) 6th District
	Bob Franks (R) 7th District
	Donald M. Payne (D) 10th District
	Dean A. Gallo (R) 11th District
	Dick Zimmer (R) 12th District
	Robert Menendez (D) 13th District

13. District of Columbia (Also anti-hunger program)

Delegate: Eleanor Holmes Norton (D)

14. Chicago, Illinois

Senators: Paul Simon (D) (Also flood relief)
Carol Moseley - Braun (D) (Also flood relief)

Representatives: Bobby Rush (D) 1st
Mel Reynolds (D) 2nd
William Lipinski (D) 3rd
Luis Gutierrez (D) 4th
Dan Rostenkowski (D) 5th
Cardiss Collins (D) 7th
Sidney Yates (D) 9th

15. Portland Oregon

Senators: Mark O. Hatfield (R) (Also rural development)
Bob Packwood (R) (Also rural development)

Representatives: Elizabeth Furse (D) 1st District
Ron Wyden (D) 3rd District
Peter A. DeFazio (D) 4th District

16. San Bernadino National Forrest, Southern California

Senators: Dianne Feinstein (D) (Also anti-hunger and rural development)
Barbara Boxer (D) (Also anti-hunger and rural development)

Representatives: John T. Doolittle (R) 4th District
Richard H. Lehman (D) 19th District
Bill Thomas (R) 21st District
Jerry Lewis (R) 40th District
Jay Kim (R) 41st District
George E. Brown, Jr. (D) 42nd District
Alfred A. (Al) McCandless (R) 44th District

17. Six Rivers National Forest, Northern California

Senators: Dianne Feinstein (D) (Also anti-hunger and rural development)
 Barbara Boxer (D) (Also anti-hunger and rural development)
 Representatives: Dan Hamburg (D) 1st District

18. Olympic National Forest Washington State

Senators: Slade Gorton (R)
 Patty Murray (D)
 Representatives: Norman D. Dicks (D) 6th District

19. Rogue River National Forest, Southern Oregon

Senators: Mark O. Hatfield (R)
 Bob Packwood (R)
 Representatives: Robert F. Smith (R) 2nd District

20. Arizona, state-wide National Forest

Senators: Dennis DeConcini (D)
 John McCain (R)
 Representatives: Ed Pastor (D) 2nd District
 Bob Stump (R) 3rd District
 Jim Kolbe (R) 5th District
 Karan English (D) 6th District

21. Bienville National Forest, Mississippi

Senators: Thad Cochran (R) (Also anti-hunger and rural development)
 Trent Lott (R) (Also anti-hunger and rural development)
 Representatives: Jamie L. Whitten (D) 1st District
 G.V. Montgomery (D) 3rd District
 Mike Parker (D) 4th District
 Gene Taylor (D) 5th District

22. Green Mountain National Forest, Vermont (Also anti-hunger and rural development)

Senators: Patrick J. Leahy (D)
James M. Jeffords (R)
Representatives: Bernard Sanders (I) (at large)

23. White Mountain National Forest, New Hampshire

Senators: Robert C. Smith (R)
Judd Gregg (R)
Representatives: Bill Zeff (R) 1st District
Dick Swett (D) 2nd District

AmeriCorps Rural Development Project Sites

24. New England (Maine, Vermont, Northwestern New York)

Maine

Senators: William S. Cohen (R)
George J. Mitchell (D)
Representatives: Olympia J. Snowe (R) 2nd District
Thomas Andrews (D) 1st District

Vermont (Also anti-hunger and environmental)

Senators: Patrick J. Leahy (D)
James M. Jeffords (R)
Representatives: Bernard Sanders (I)

Northwestern New York

Senators: Daniel P. Moynihan (D)
Alfonse M. D'Amato (R)
Representatives: John LaFalce (D) - 29th
Amo Houghton (R) - 31st
William Paxon ((R) - 27th
Jack Quinn ((R) - 30th

25. Appalachia (Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia)

Tennessee

Senators: Jim Sasser (D)
Harlan Mathews (D)
Representatives: Jim Cooper (D) 4th
Bart Gordon (D) 6th
Don Sunquist (R) 7th
John Tanner (D) 8th

Virginia

Senators: John W. Warner (R)
Charles S. Robb (D)
Representatives: Rick Boucher (D) 9th
L.F. Payne (D) 5th
Robert Scott ((D) 3rd

West Virginia

Senators: Robert C. Byrd (D)
John D. Rockefeller IV (D)
Representatives: Alan Mollohan (D) 1st
Bob Wise (D) 2nd

26. South Carolina, state-wide

Senators: Strom Thurmond (R)
Ernest F. Hollings (D)
Representatives: Floyd Spence (R) 2nd
Butler Derrick (D) 3rd
John Spratt (D) 5th
James Clyburn (D) 6th

27. Mississippi Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi)

Arkansas

Senators: Dale Bumpers (D)
David Pryor (D)
Representatives: Blanche Lambert (D) 1st
Ray Thornton (D) 2nd
Tim Hutchinson (R) 3rd
Jay Dickey (R) 4th

Louisiana

Senators: J. Bennett Johnston (D)
John B. Breaux (D)

Representatives: Bob Livingston (R) 1st
William Jefferson (D) 2nd
W.J. (Billy) Tauzin (D) 3rd
Cleo Fields (D) 4th
Jim McCrery (R) 5th
Richard Baker (R) 6th
James Hayes (D) 7th

Mississippi

Senators: Thad Cochran (R)
Trent Lott (R)

Representatives: Jamie Whitten (D) 1st
Bennie Thompson (D) 2nd
Mike Parker (D) 4th

28. Great Lakes (Michigan, Ohio)

Michigan

Senators: Donald W. Riegle, Jr. (D)
Carl Levin (D)

Representatives: James Barcia (D) 5th District

Ohio

Senators: John Glenn (D)
Howard M. Metzenbaum (D)

Representatives: Michael Oxley (R) 4th
David Hobson (R) 7th
John Kasich (R) 12th
Deborah Pryce (R) 15h

29. Minnesota, state-wide

Senators: Jim Ramstad (R)
Bruce F. Vento (D)

Representatives: Colin Peterson (D) 7th

30. Texas Colonias

Senators: Phil Gramm (R)
Bob Krueger (D)

Representatives: Kika de la Garza (D) 15th
Henry Bonilla (R) 23rd
Frank Tejeda (D) 28th

Four Corners (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah)

Arizona

Senators: Dennis DeConcini (D)
John McCain (R)

Representatives: Bob Stump (R) 3rd
Karen English (D) 6th

Colorado

Senators: Hank Brown (R)
Ben Nighthorse Campbell (D)

Representatives: Scott McInnis (R) 3rd

New Mexico

Senators: Robert C. Smith (R)
Judd Gregg (R)

Representatives: Steve Schiff (R) 1st
Joe Skeen (R) 2nd
Bill Richardson (D) 3rd

Utah

Senators: Orrin G. Hatch (R)
Robert F. Bennett (R)

Representatives: Bill Orton (D) 3rd

32. Pacific Northwest (Oregon, Washington)

Oregon

Senators: Mark O. Hatfield (R)
 Bob Packwood (R)

Representatives: Elizabeth Furse (D) 1st
 Ron Wyden (D) 3rd
 Peter Fazio (D) 4th

Washington

Senators: Slade Gorton (R)
 Patty Murray (D)

Representatives: Jay Inslee (D) 4th

33. California, state-wide

Senators: Dianne Feinstein (D)
 Barbara Boxer (D)

Representatives: Dan Hamburg (D) 1st
 Lynn Woolsey (D) 6th
 Jay C. Kim (R) 17th
 Howard P. (Buck) McKeon (R) 25th
 Jerry Lewis (R) 40th
 George Brown , Jr. (D) 42nd

AmeriCorps Flood Relief Project Sites34. Illinois

Senators: Paul Simon (D)
 Carol Moseley - Braun (D)

Representatives: Jerry F. Costello (D) 12th
 Lane Evans (D) 17th
 Richard Durbin (D) 20th

35. Iowa

Senators: Charles E. Grassley (R)
Tom Harkin (D)

Representatives: James A. Leach (R) 1st
Jim Nussle (R) 2nd
Jim Lightfoot (R) 3rd
Neal Smith (D) 4th
Fred Grandy (R) 5th

36. Kansas

Senators: Robert Dole (R)
Nancy Landon Kassebaum (R)

Representatives: Pat Roberts (R) 1st
Jim Slattery (D) 2nd

37. Minnesota

Senators: Dave Durenberger (R)
Paul David Wellstone (D)

Representatives: Collin C. Peterson (D) 7th

38. Missouri

Senators: John C. Danforth (R)
Christopher S. Bond (R)

Representatives: William L. Clay (D) 1st
Richard A. Gephardt (D) 3rd
Ike Skelton (D) 4th
Alan Wheat (D) 5th
Pat Danner (D) 6th
Mel Hancock (R) 7th
Bill Emerson (R) 8th
Harold L. Volkmer (D) 9th

39. Nebraska

Senators:

J. James Exon (D)

J. Robert Kerrey (D)

Representatives:

Doug Bereuter (R) 1st

Peter Hoagland (D) 2nd

Bill Barrett (R) 3rd

40. North Dakota

Senators:

Kent Conrad (D)

Byron L. Dorgan (D)

Representatives:

Earl Pomeroy (D) At Large

41. South Dakota

Senators:

Larry Pressler (R)

Thomas A. Daschle (D)

Representatives:

Tim Johnson (D) At Large

42. Wisconsin

Senators:

Herb Kohl (D)

Russell Feingold (D)

Representatives:

Steve Gunderson (R) 3rd

[FULL COMMITTEE PRINT]**Union Calendar No.**

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

[Report No. 104-]

Making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE , 1995

Mr. REGULA, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the following bill; which was committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

Making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the following sums are appropriated, out of any
4 money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the
5 Department of the Interior and related agencies for the

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1 SEC. 310. Where the actual costs of construction
2 projects under self-determination contracts, compacts, or
3 grants, pursuant to Public Laws 93-638, 100-413, or
4 100-297, are less than the estimated costs thereof, use
5 of the resulting excess funds shall be determined by the
6 appropriate Secretary after consultation with the tribes.

7 SEC. 311. Notwithstanding Public Law 103-413,
8 quarterly payments of funds to tribes and tribal organiza-
9 tions under annual funding agreements pursuant to sec-
10 tion 108 of Public Law 93-638, as amended, may be made
11 on the first business day following the first day of a fiscal
12 quarter.

13 SEC. 312. None of funds in this Act may be used
14 for the Americorps program.

15 SEC. 313. (a) As of April 1, 1996, and notwithstand-
16 ing any other provision of law, the Pennsylvania Avenue
17 Development Corporation shall—

18 (1) transfer and assign all of its rights, title,
19 and interest in and to all of the leases, covenants,
20 agreements, and easements it has executed or will
21 execute by March 31, 1996, in carrying out its pow-
22 ers and duties under the Pennsylvania Avenue De-
23 velopment Corporation Act (40 U.S.C. 871-885) to
24 the General Services Administration or the National
25 Park Service; and

Ameri-
Corps

Bill language has been included in Title III which transfers lands, including open spaces, plazas and sidewalks, currently under the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia to the National Park Service.

The National Park Service currently performs basic maintenance along Pennsylvania Avenue and the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation has used its funds to enhance maintenance and fund special events. The National Park Service will now be solely responsible for providing these functions with the exception of maintaining Pennsylvania Avenue itself which continues to be the responsibility of the District of Columbia.

Ameri-
Corps

The Service should also note that there is a provision in Title III of the bill which states that none of the funds appropriated in this bill may be used to implement the Americorps program. Specifically, the Committee has denied the \$1,750,000 request for funding of Americorps projects at National Park Service sites. Given the size of the federal deficit and the recent mandate from the American people to downsize the government, the Committee believes that all activities not central to the basic operation of the National Parks should be discontinued.

The General Provisions, Department of the Interior section contains a provision relating to the Presidio. The language states that any funds appropriated in this bill which are not obligated as of the date on which the Presidio Trust is established by an Act of Congress shall be transferred immediately to and available only for the Presidio Trust.

The Committee has retained only \$1 for expenditure of funds for the Mojave National Preserve has transferred \$600,000 and 12 FTE's to BLM to continue operations.

The Committee is concerned about reports of fee inequities charged to users of the Blue Ridge Parkway and encourages the Superintendent to resolve any bias in this area. The Committee expects fees charged to be fairly and equitably distributed among all users of the Parkway.

The Committee has provided funding for the National Council on Traditional Arts at the 1995 funding level of \$175,000.

The Committee is aware that the National Park Service has under consideration a proposal with a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and a private entity to build the National Museum of the American Civil War, which Congress designated Gettysburg as the official site in 1989. The Committee further understands that this will be the first private-public partnership with the Park Service on constructing a national museum. The Committee supports and encourages efforts to involve the private sector in these efforts, with appropriate Park supervision of the project. As federal discretionary funding continues to decrease, the Committee realizes that these types of private-public partnerships become more important to enable these projects to be undertaken.

Funding for the Urban Parks Program is not provided. As stated in H.R. 1158, this program is a state or local responsibility. The Committee strongly urges the Service not to consider funding for this program in the fiscal year 1997 budget.

In order to provide for an increase in the parks operating budget an overall reduction of 9.3% to the remaining Park Service ac-

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Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps

August 4, 1995

To: Sujata Tejawani

From: Liz Jones

15 pages, including this cover

Per our conversation, attached is the following information about USDA AmeriCorps projects on Forest Service land. On Monday I will send you specific information about our California projects.

- 1) List of USDA projects this year. I have starred the Forest Service sites. The first column has the Forest name, and then the state. The second column has the number of Members in the program at each site. As you can read, our biggest Forest Service environmental projects are in California, Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Mississippi, Vermont, and New Hampshire. States with smaller rural development projects funded by the Forest Service are in Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina, Arkansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado.
 - 2) List of Republicans who voted to create AmeriCorps in 1993.
 - 3) Two page cost/benefit analysis of Forest Service AmeriCorps projects.
 - 4) Two page description of the service performed by Forest Service AmeriCorps projects, as of the end of the second quarter of this year.
 - 5) Three letters signed by Senator Hatfield praising the Northwest Service Academy -- an AmeriCorps program run with a large amount of Forest Service Funds.
 - 6) A letter from the Northwest Service Academy to Hatfield, explaining how the project would suffer if Interior Appropriations language went through.
- ny

AMERICORPS / USDA — FIRST QUARTER REPORT (9/12/94 - 11/31/94)

Projects	Number of Slots	# at First QT	Hours of Training	Hours of Direct Service
ANTI-HUNGER				
FCS Vermont	40	*	*	*
FCS District of Columbia	12	12	632	2,526.00
FCS Milwaukee	38	38	7,902	1,580.00
FCS Mississippi	15	15	800	4,816.00
FCS Los Angeles	40	40	5,965	10,241.00
ANTI-HUNGER TOTAL	145.00	105.00	15,299.00	19,163.00
ENVIRONMENTAL				
NRCS Kansas	43	43	1,008	12,900.00
NRCS Oklahoma	20	20	960	6,000.00
NRCS Texas Coast	19	19	2,075	5,700.00
NRCS Atlanta	20	14	1,960	6,000.00
NRCS Boston	20	*	*	*
NRCS New Jersey	15	14	248	4,500.00
NRCS DC/Beltsville	11	11	888	3,300.00
ARS DC	5	5	93	1,500.00
NRCS Chicago	20	20	180	6,000.00
NRCS Portland Full-time	8	8	365	2,400.00
NRCS Portland Part-time	10	10	300	3,000.00
NRCS Goldendale, Washington	9	9	576	2,700.00
FS San Bernardino, Southern CA	80	79	561	24,000.00
FS Six Rivers, Northern CA	25	23	1,366	7,500.00
FS Olympic, Washington	38	36	2,160	11,400.00
FS Rouge River, OR	37	34	2,088	11,100.00
FS Arizona State-wide	45	45	600	13,500.00
FS Bienville, MS	20	20	900	6,000.00
FS Green Mountain, VT	20	*	*	*
FS White Mountain, NH	32	*	*	*
NRCS South. and Cent. Illinois	30	30	7,200	9,000.00
NRCS South Dakota	19	19	284	5,700.00
NRCS Nebraska	18	18	730	5,400.00
ENVIRONMENTAL TOTAL	564.00	477.00	24,542.00	147,600.00

Projects	Number of Slots	# at First QT	Hours of Training	Hours of Direct Service
RURAL DEVELOPMENT				
NEW ENGLAND				
NRCS Maine	20	20	1,003	6,000.00
NRCS Vermont	5	5	227	1,500.00
APPALACHIA				
RECD Tennessee	7	7	225	2,100.00
RECD Kentucky	9	9	416	2,700.00
RECD Virginia	1	1	160	300.00
RECD West Virginia	7	7	1,560	2,100.00
RECD North Carolina	5	5	107	1,500.00
NRCS Tennessee	18	17	775	5,400.00
NRCS Virginia	6	6	325	1,800.00
NRCS West Virginia	5	5	500	1,500.00
FS Tennessee	5	5	368	1,500.00
FS Kentucky	2	2	150	600.00
FS Virginia	4	4	239	1,200.00
FS West Virginia	7	6	672	2,100.00
FS North Carolina	2	2	384	600.00
FS Georgia	1	1	50	400.00
SOUTH CAROLINA				
RECD South Carolina	15	15	1,200	5,000
FS South Carolina	6	6	283	1,800.00
NRCS South Carolina	20	20	2,240	6,000.00

Projects	Number of Slots	# at First QT	Hours of Training	Hours of Direct Service
MISSISSIPPI DELTA				
RECD Mississippi	13	13	1,325	3,900.00
RECD Arkansas	8	8	471	2,400.00
RECD Louisiana	11	11	1,210	3,300.00
NRCS Mississippi	10	10	692	3,000.00
NRCS Arkansas	10	10	692	3,000.00
NRCS Louisiana	7	6	518	2,100.00
FS Mississippi	10	10	493	3,000.00
FS Arkansas	5	5	112	1,500.00
FS Louisiana	5	5	235	1,500.00
GREAT LAKES				
NRCS Ohio	6	6	640	1,800.00
NRCS Michigan	15	15	960	4,500.00
NRCS New York	5	5	450	2,267.00
MINNESOTA				
NRCS Minnesota	19	19	1,600	5,700.00
FS Minnesota	10	10	1,384	3,000.00
COLONIAS				0.00
RECD Texas	17	17	96	384.00
RECD New Mexico	6	6	735	1,363.00
RECD Arizona	7	7	1,220	2,100.00
RECD California	3	3	165	1,200.00
FOUR CORNERS				
NRCS Arizona	6	6	150	1,800.00
NRCS Colorado/New Mexico	8	6	150	2,400.00
NRCS/FS Utah	5	5	310	1,500.00
FS Arizona/New Mexico	5	5	150	1,500.00
FS Colorado	2	2	65	600.00
RECD New Mexico	3	3	222	900.00

Projects	Number of Slots	# at First QT	Hours of Training	Hours of Direct Service
PACIFIC NORTHWEST				
RECD Oregon	8	8	957	2,400.00
RECD Washington	5	4	32	1,500.00
FS Oregon	4	4	88	1,200.00
NRCS Oregon (Grant's Pass)	5	5	233	1,500.00
NRCS Washington	5	5	320	1,500.00
MIDWEST FLOOD STATES				
NRCS Missouri	12	12	694	3,600.00
NRCS Iowa	26	26	1,204	7,800.00
NRCS Illinois	15	15	1,020	4,500.00
NRCS North Dakota	5	4	711	1,500.00
NRCS Wisconsin	7	6	867	2,100.00
CALIFORNIA				
NRCS California	31	31	1,583	9,300.00
RURAL DEVELOPMENT TOTAL	464.00	456.00	32,638.00	135,714.00
	0.00			
GRAND TOTAL:	1,173.00	1,038.00	72,479.00	302,477.00

TOTAL OF 374,956 HOURS OF SERVICE

* = service had not yet begun by November 31, 1994

Key to USDA Agencies

FS = Forest Service, NRCS = Natural Resources Conservation Service, ARS = Agricultural Research Service, RECD = Rural Economic and Community Development, FCS = Food and Consumer Service

The Cost-Effective of AmeriCorps/USDA Projects

The limited cost/benefit analyses prepared by or for AmeriCorps/USDA provide that the Department's program is extremely cost-effective.

The USDA Forest Service has just calculated that its 236 AmeriCorps Members serving on Public Lands Teams perform at least \$1.51 worth of service for each \$1.00 that the American taxpayer spends to support such service. Although it is difficult to blend cost benefits from different Forest Service regions around the country, the cost-benefit figures are based on an average of the combined cost savings of all recreation projects completed. These costs included all Federal spending, including the Member stipends and educational awards.

The Forest Service AmeriCorps Public Lands crews completed recreation projects for 51% less than similar projects completed by force account (if completed by Federal employees), and 68% less than similar services completed by contracted services. For example, in one area it cost AmeriCorps \$64,185 to complete 53 miles of heavy trail maintenance. The same projects would have cost \$126,000 by force account, and \$212,000 if the services were contracted.

The Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation & Development Council in Tennessee calculated that, in the first four months of the program, the four USDA AmeriCorps Rural Development Team Members, who are managed by the Council, performed approximately \$2.73 worth of service for each \$1.00 that the American taxpayer spent to support such service.

As evidenced by the chart on the next page, the Council calculated that, if purchased on the "Open market," one service project performed by one Member would have cost an estimated \$23,975 while another service project performed by three Members would have cost an estimated, \$50,400, bringing the total value of the service performed to \$74,375. The cost of the AmeriCorps Members, pro-rated to the four months period in which they performed the projects, was \$27,272.

AMERICORPS SOLID WASTE SPECIALIST (One member sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service)

Accomplishments (4 months)	Cost to Community if Service Purchased on Open Market*	Cost as Provided Through AmeriCorps	Savings to Community Through AmeriCorps
Assist Hancock County with Convenience Center Design, Permitting and Funding Grant	\$3,400		
Assist Hancock County with completion of 10 year Solid Waste Management Plan as required by state law.	\$8,500		
Preparation of Bid Specs and package for Recycling Equipment for the City of Harrogate.	\$1,700		
Preparation of Bid Specs and Package for Transfer Station for Claiborne County.	\$2,550		
Preparation of Bid Specs and Package for Grainger County Recycling Center	\$2,125		
Design and Layout of Solid Waste Education Brochure	\$1,400		
Preparation, development and writing of four grant proposals for outside funding of important solid waste projects.	\$4,000		
TOTAL	\$23,975 (estimate)	approx. \$7,272	\$16,703

* Estimated costs based on the known 'going price' in the RC&D region.

SPECIALTY RECREATION AND TOURISM INITIATIVE (three members sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service)

Accomplishments (4 months)	Cost to Community if Service Purchased on Open Market*	Cost as Provided Through AmeriCorps	Savings to Community Through AmeriCorps
Inventory, Development of Regional Committee, Setup of Tourism Network, Preliminary Funding Search, Eco-Tourism Feasibility Study, Wilderness Road Draft and Design of Regional Tourism Database	\$50,400 (estimate)	approx. \$20,000	\$30,400

* Estimated costs based on the known 'going price' in the RC&D region.

6. Summary of Progress this Quarter Toward Accomplishing Annual Objectives:

(a) Direct Service Objectives

AmeriCorps/USDA is "Getting Things Done" on Forest Service Lands

The following is a brief summary of second quarter and cumulative accomplishments from the eight Public Lands and Environment Teams operating on National Forest land through the USDA direct grant, in which total of 236 AmeriCorps Members have performed over 141,702 hours of service since the beginning of the program. This summary also includes accomplishments of one camp operating through the Northwest Service Academy, which receives significant technical support from the Forest Service. It should be noted, the below-listed tasks were accomplished during the worst period of weather to be encountered by most of the sites. USDA AmeriCorps Members:

- * Maintained 180 miles of trail this quarter, bringing the cumulative total to 241 miles this program year.
- * Maintained and prepared 16 campgrounds for forest visitors this quarter, bringing the cumulative total to 24 campgrounds maintained and prepared this program year.
- * Completely restored 45 individual campsites this quarter, bringing the cumulative total to 55 campgrounds maintained and prepared this program year.
- * Reconstructed 20 campsites to make them accessible to people with disabilities this quarter, bringing the cumulative total to 26 campsites made accessible for this program year.
- * Completed 354 acres of timber stand improvement projects this quarter, bringing the cumulative total to 551 acres improved this program year.
- * Constructed 20 miles of new fence and removed 15 miles of ineffective fence this quarter, bringing the cumulative total to 21 miles of fence constructed and 18 miles of fence removed this program year.
- * Rehabilitated 12,000 acres of land damaged by wildfire this quarter, bringing the cumulative total to 24,000 acres of land rehabilitated this program year.

- * Rehabilitated 60 acres of wildlife habitat including the construction of 2 water tanks and 3 water lots, bringing the cumulative total to 425 acres of habitat improved and 4 range waterlots installed this program year.

- * Improved watersheds damaged by wildfire by cutting and planting 18,000 willows and cottonwoods in riparian areas to prevent further erosion, bringing the cumulative total to 63,000 cuttings gathered and planted this program year.

- * Constructed 7 bridges in campground areas this quarter.

- * Removed hazard trees from 24 campgrounds this quarter.

- * Constructed 59 new picnic tables and 3 complete playground areas this quarter.

- * Painted and refurbished several CCC historic structures this quarter.

- * Constructed 153 visitor information signs this quarter.

- * Rehabilitated 4500 acres of wilderness areas.

- * Enhanced Threatened and Endangered Species habitat by constructing and installing 238 bird boxes.

- * Completed disaster relief projects including the construction of 11 fences and 20 retaining structures to prevent further flood damage.

- * Surveyed 3000 trees and planted over 70 acres.

- * Pruned two acres of fruit trees.

- * In addition, in the previous quarter, Members constructed 25 stream structures for anadromous fisheries on .75 miles of stream, constructed 6 new miles of new hiking trails, restored two historic sites, completed threatened and endangered species habitat surveys on 900 acres, protect 82 acres of huckleberry field sacred to the Warm Springs Takima Tribal Nations, hung erosion netting on 300 feet of steep Forest service road cut-backs, and helped clear 15 miles of road that provide access to water monitoring sites.

5
727 C
O. HATFIELD
DISTRICTS CENTER
EET N.E., SUITE 305
ALEM, OR 97301

MARK O. HATFIELD
ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER
121 S.W. SALMON STREET, SUITE 1420
PORTLAND, OR 97204

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3701

June 23, 1994

Dear Friend:

The National Community Service Act of 1993 has provided the foundation upon which the Administration and Congress created a "domestic peace corps" called AmeriCorps. In this program, young Americans will receive educational grants in exchange for their national service work.

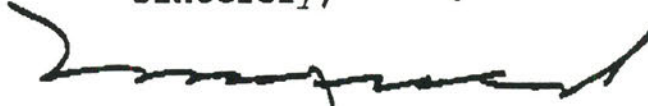
As part of this program, the newly formed Northwest Service Academy has received support to sponsor ninety individuals eighteen years and older to work on projects which will focus on unmet needs in the Pacific Northwest. In addition to completing worthwhile projects, Academy participants will learn civic responsibility by serving their communities.

At the end of ten months of service, each participant will receive a post-service benefit of \$4,725 toward college tuition, or if they have graduated, to repay a college loan. Communities will be mobilized to address their unique needs by assistance from the federal government, which will provide \$6.00 for every \$1.00 raised from the private sector.

I believe this model holds tremendous potential for new public-private partnerships and I urge your support for the Northwest Service Academy, an Oregon/Washington program. Your participation will ensure continued education for participants and completion of important projects in our Northwest communities.

With best regards.

Sincerely,



Mark O. Hatfield
United States Senator

MOH:aw

MARK O. HATFIELD
U.S. DISTRICTS CENTER
7. STREET N.E., SUITE 305
SEASIDE, OREGON 97138

MARK O. HATFIELD
ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER
121 S.W. SALMON STREET, SUITE 1420
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3701

April 25, 1995

Mr. Richard Seidman
Executive Director
Friends of Trees
2730 NE Martin Luther King Boulevard
Portland, Oregon 97212

Dear Mr. Seidman:

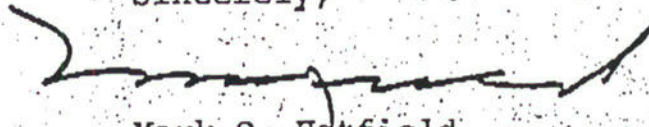
Thank you for sending me a copy of your recent letter to Joe Parvankin testifying to the importance of the AmeriCorps program in helping Friends of Trees in their tree planting projects. I appreciate having this kind of information.

Over and over again, I have heard good things about the Northwest Service Academy and the work they are doing in and around the City of Portland as well as the central Columbia Gorge area. Under the best of conditions, the AmeriCorps program is a win-win program - one which benefits both the volunteer and the community. Unfortunately, this program, like many good programs, is facing budget cuts as we try to get our fiscal house in order. At this point, it is still too early to know how this program will fare during the budget process.

Thanks again for taking the time to share your thoughts with me.

With best regards.

Sincerely,



Mark O. Hatfield
United States Senator

MOH:aw

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3701

June 1, 1995

Mr. Jon Stewart
Academy Director
Northwest Service Academy
31520 SE Woodard Road
Troutdale, Oregon 97060

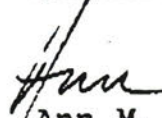
Dear Mr. Stewart:

Thank you for sending me a copy of the Academy's Second Quarter Report. The Academy's activities are indeed impressive and I appreciate having this information for our files and for future reference.

Thanks again for sending me this report and for pointing out the letter from Laura Feldman.

With best regards.

Sincerely,



Ann M. Warner
Field Representative

MARK O. HATFIELD
JUDICIAL DISTRICTS CLERK
121 S.W. SALMON STREET, SUITE 1400
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204

MARK O. HATFIELD
ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER
121 S.W. SALMON STREET, SUITE 1400
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3701

June 1, 1995

Mr. Jon Stewart
Academy Director
Northwest Service Academy
31520 SE Woodard Road
Troutdale, Oregon 97060

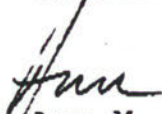
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With best regards.

Sincerely,



Ann M. Warner
Field Representative



Northwest Service Academy

An AmeriCorps Program

"Learning civic responsibility by providing service to the community and the environment."

July 3, 1995

Ann Warner
Field Representative
121 S.W. Salmon
Room 1420
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Ann,

The Northwest Service Academy recently learned that the Interior Appropriations Bill, which covers the USDA Forest Service as well as the National Park Service and other bureaus within the Department of Interior, prohibits the use of funds for AmeriCorps. The House Bill language of the **FY 1996 Interior Appropriations Bill found in Section 312 in Title 111, General Provisions** is **"none of the funds in this Act may be used for the AmeriCorps Programs."**

As you know this would significantly affect AmeriCorps programs in the State of Oregon because almost two thirds of the land are federal lands managed by either the Department of Interior (B.L.M.) or the USDA Forest Service. It would have similar impacts on AmeriCorps programs in all states west of the Rocky Mountains where a significant portion of the lands are managed by the federal government.

In 1995 18 AmeriCorps programs, including the Northwest Service Academy, enrolled 550 citizens to work in Forest Service sponsored programs nationwide. These Members served hundreds of communities and accomplished thousands of dollars of work nationwide at 1/3 to 1/2 the cost of getting work done without AmeriCorps programs.

Indeed, as our quarterly reports show, AmeriCorps has proved a catalyst in rural communities to bring diverse groups into a working partnership for a common purpose. AmeriCorps members have targeted the three "R's" of service by restoring native salmon runs, renewing healthy ecosystems and rebuilding local communities. And in this they gained the fourth big "R" of life long service we call "civic responsibility."

Metro Center:

31520 SE Woodard Road
Troutdale, Oregon 97060
(503) 495-3735

Mt. Adams Center:

Trout Lake, Washington 98650
(509) 395-3460
FAX (509) 395-3215

In communities ranging from Albina in NE Portland to Ruth in southwest Oregon, we have proved that national service does work. But we have not done it alone. AmeriCorps members, by providing key leadership in community service have mobilized hundreds of community volunteers to help in a wide variety of projects, ranging from community play structures to wetland restoration. Our members have given their heart and soul to create a successful model of national service this year. In so doing they have won a national award from the National Wildlife Federation plus numerous local awards from PTA's, community non-profits and neighborhood associations.

The Northwest Service Academy is fairly confident of funding coming from the Corporation from National Service. But at least one third of our work is on federal lands and we need matching federal dollars to accomplish critical habitat restoration projects. If this language stays in the FY 1996 Interior Appropriations Bill, the in-kind support ranging from our residential facility at Trout Lake, Washinton to our offices in Troutdale, Oregon will disappear. Along with it will go a wonderful opportunity to make national service part of the fabric of the Pacific Northwest.

We feel that this language in the Interior Appropriations Bill is designed to unfairly target programs in the Western States where a tremendous amount of habitat restoration work still needs to be done. Without the clear support from the USDA Forest Service, none of the partnerships that established a trusting relationship with local communities would have occurred.

We hope that you are able to share the impact of this language with Senator Hatfield.

Sincerely,



Jon Stewart
Northwest Service Academy Director

ACTIVITY REPORT

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ACTIVITY REPORT

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PRESERVATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

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ACTIVITY REPORT

TRANSMISSION OK

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PAGES	3

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

January 25, 1996

Mr. John Bohanan
Office of Representative Steny Hoyer
6500 Cherrywood Lane, Suite 310
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

Dear Mr. Bohanan:

We are pleased to invite you to the USDA AmeriCorps Member Orientation in Beltsville, Maryland. The orientation will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 30, 1996 at the National Plant Materials Center.

USDA AmeriCorps has sites in 45 states serving predominately rural areas. The Members in Maryland are sponsored by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and are located in Beltsville, Waldorf, Centreville, and Easton. During their service these Members will be working on such projects as oyster bed replenishment, dry fire hydrant installation, and trail building.

Attached are an agenda for the day and directions to the Plant Materials Center. You should dress warmly as the Members will be working outside. If you will attend, please call me at 690-3507. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Jones
National Service
Office of Communications



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

January 25, 1996

Ms. Mary Larkin
Office of Representative Wayne Gilchrest
101 Crain Highway, N.W., Suite 509
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061

Dear Ms. Larkin:

We are pleased to invite you to the USDA AmeriCorps Member Orientation in Beltsville, Maryland. The orientation will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 30, 1996 at the National Plant Materials Center.

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Sincerely,

Elizabeth Jones
National Service
Office of Communications



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

January 25, 1996

Ms. Asunta Chiang
Office of Senator Barbara Mikulski
9658 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 208
College Park, Maryland 20740

Dear Ms. Chiang:

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Sincerely,

Elizabeth Jones
National Service
Office of Communications



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

January 25, 1996

Ms. Jeannie Lazerov
Office of Senator Paul Sarbanes
1110 Bonifant Street, Suite 450
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Ms. Lazerov:

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Sincerely,

Elizabeth Jones
National Service
Office of Communications



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

TO: Rebecca Donovan

Donovan

From: Joel Berg *JB*

4 PAGES, including this cover

It was good meeting with you about the USDA AmeriCorps program. Attached is a sample Dear Colleague letter we discussed. Call me at 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

TO: Maggie Whitney

From: Joel Berg

JB

4 PAGES, including this cover

Per our discussion, sample Dear Colleague letter. I know how busy you are, so we'll let you know when we get a Senate office to take the lead on this. Thanks again for all your help.

sent



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

TO: Mathew Sikes

From: Joel Berg *JB*

4 PAGES, including this cover

Per our recent discussion, a sample Dear Colleague letter is attached. Any questions, please call me at 720-5746.

*sent 1
Nunh*



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

TO: Mike Egan, Office of Senator Murray

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA *JB*

4 PAGES, including this cover

Some of the supporters of the USDA / AmeriCorps program in the House are circulating a Dear Colleague letter. I thought you might be interested to see a draft. Any questions, please call me at 720-5746.

Sent



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

TO: Sherry Kaiman, Senate Education Subcommittee

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA *JP*

4 PAGES, including this cover

Some of the supporters of the USDA / AmeriCorps program in the House are circulating a Dear Colleague letter. I thought you might be interested to see a draft. Any questions, please call me at 720-5746.

sent

DRAFT

December ____, 1995

Reasons Why the USDA Should Continue to Run a Portion of the AmeriCorps Program

Dear Colleagues:

We are writing to express our support for the AmeriCorps program sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which reinvents government by finding innovative and cost-effective ways to fight hunger, improve the environment, and re-build rural communities. We are familiar with the program because of a highly successful project(s) in our states.

As you may know, the vast majority of AmeriCorps projects are not funded or managed by Federal agencies --- most are funded through state commissions appointed by each state's governor and are managed by non-profit organizations and local government organizations.

However, a relatively small component of the program is managed by Federal agencies, lead by a highly successful USDA program now operating in 45 states. Unfortunately, some critics of AmeriCorps have inaccurately characterized the AmeriCorps Members sponsored by USDA as wasteful "bureaucrats" padding the Federal workforce. Such a characterization is false and unfortunate.

USDA AmeriCorps Members are not Federal employees and are not performing functions generally performed by Federal employees. They are performing work far more cost-effectively than would be provided through normal government methods. They are reducing government bureaucracy by performing community service that rapidly and directly delivers vital services to citizens.

There are seven solid reasons to support the continuation of the USDA-sponsored portion of AmeriCorps.

1) USDA AmeriCorps projects are "getting things done" providing vital and mainstream service to rural, suburban, and urban communities throughout America. For instance, USDA projects are building trails and fighting fire on National Forests, improving city parks, aiding rural fire departments, bringing running water to poor rural families, and teaching children how to improve their nutrition.

2) USDA AmeriCorps projects are strengthening communities. Working in partnership with community-based organizations, USDA AmeriCorps Members are meeting the most pressing needs in each of hundreds of locales in which they are operating. The service projects were not designed or implemented in Washington --- all the projects are locally-proposed and locally-administered. Consequently, USDA AmeriCorps projects have received broad-based bi-partisan support from local leaders.

3) USDA AmeriCorps projects are expanding opportunity for low-income and middle class families. USDA projects are fully diverse --- including a large representation of Members from solidly middle class families.

4) USDA AmeriCorps projects are encouraging personal responsibility. All USDA projects require extremely hard work in exchange for educational benefits, while helping AmeriCorps Members build a life-long commitment to community service.

5) Many USDA projects are in rural and suburban areas that often receive less aid from the Federal government. These areas often also lack significant non-profit sector support networks. USDA has a field structure that is uniquely suited to run programs in traditionally under-served areas.

6) USDA AmeriCorps projects provide taxpayers with double the "bang for the buck." USDA is simply utilizing funds that would already be spent by the Department. Not only are AmeriCorps Members performing more work than would be performed by traditional governmental means, they are also bringing communities together, promoting personal responsibility, and helping earn their own way through college --- all for the same tax dollars that normally would fund just the work.

7) The USDA program enables AmeriCorps Members to perform tasks requiring technical expertise far beyond the capabilities of the vast majority of non-profit organizations. For instance, under direct and sustained supervision from experts in the field, USDA AmeriCorps Members are inspecting flood-damaged dams, implementing strategic plans to create local jobs, designing and implementing entire recycling programs for counties, helping farmers diversify their crops, bolstering the Empowerment Zone/Enterprise community initiative, designing timber bridges, and decreasing ground water pollution. USDA and other federal agencies provide advanced technical assistance, training and supervision which allow AmeriCorps Members to accomplish tasks requiring advanced skills, resulting in benefits to communities lasting far beyond the period of service.

In summary, not only does the USDA AmeriCorps program address critical, unmet needs of communities, it moves power from government agencies to bolster service organizations and individual citizens. The USDA AmeriCorps program provides its Members with an opportunity to earn their way through college and helps remind all citizens that they have an obligation to serve their country. As the role of Federal agencies in AmeriCorps is debated during both the appropriations and re-authorization process, we expect the USDA component of the program to receive broad bi-partisan support.

Sincerely,

Pullone



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

TO: Russ

From: Joel

4 PAGES, including this cover

Revised version of possible Dear Colleague letter, approved by
the Corporation for National Service

DRAFT

December ____, 1995

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Sincerely,

Congressman John Doesmith (D-KS)

Congresswoman Penny Jones (R-CA)

Congressman Peter Pieper (D-NJ)

Congresswoman Pickel Pepper (R-KY)

Congressman Calvin Trillin (D-HI)

Congresswoman Jennifer Smith (R-OK)



Getting Things Done

AN AMERICORPS NEWSLETTER FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

JAN/FEB 1996

Vol. I No. I

About This Publication

The purpose of this newsletter is to place AmeriCorps on a more local level to show what AmeriCorps members are doing in this region. Despite it's status as a federal government program our work is benefiting the individual communities across the nation.

This particular publication is a product of the three USDA AmeriCorps "clusters" located in Northern California. Ideally a cluster is a group of four to six AmeriCorps members who work within a fifty mile radius of each other. Since northern California has a much more vast and sparsely populated area some of our clusters exceed that.

It is a sense of locality that has prompted our three clusters to produce this newsletter and we hope that those in other regions will do the same. It is important for AmeriCorps to keep that local focus as many national organizations have lost touch with what the constituencies that they serve..

Auburn AmeriCorps Reduce Fuel

by James May

The premise of this project is to restore the forests to a healthier, less crowded state where a lighter fuel load reduces the chances of high intensity forest fires. Traditionally, California's forests were subject to frequent low intensity burns that kept the forests cleared of excessive amounts of brush and debris while also preventing overcrowding of trees. Ironically the supression of these fires has led to a more dangerous and devastating high-intensity fires.

AmeriCorps members in the Auburn-Placerville cluster have been receiving hands on training in this field. They have been helping to make fuel reduction recommendations to local property owners. The recommendations are made in order to safeguard private property from wildfire and also to survey the property for any commercial use..

Watershed Protection at Mt. Vision Fire

by Robert Rand

The Mt. Vision Fire was ignited by an unattended campfire on Oct. 3, 1995 at approximately 1 pm on Mt. Vision within the Tomales Bay State Park. High winds and heavy fuel loads drove this fire into nearby Point Reyes National Seashore. After burning over 12,000 acres of private and public lands and destroying 48 structures the fire was declared contained on Oct. 7, 1995.

AmeriCorps members **Nancy Scolari** and I worked with the County of Marin as part of an Emergency Watershed Response team. On Oct. 24 we provided seed for the project which was aquired from the California Department of Forestry nursery in Davis. We assisted District Conservationist **Lisa Woo Shanks** in training the Marin Conservation Corps (MCC) on seeding and straw mulching (See **Fire** on Page 5)

In This Issue

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And Much More	



AmeriCorps Members revisit Stemple Creek

by Valerie Bridges

Last Spring Petaluma AmeriCorps members, in conjunction with the Shrimp Club, and four local landowners began implementing practices that will provide shading and wildlife habitat for a two mile stretch of Stemple Creek. Four local dairies and ranchers participated in a combination of planting native vegetation and installing protective fencing to keep livestock out of the creek.

Severe storms of the winter of 1995 collapsed sections of the streambank along the Tresch property section of the creek. This damaged the newly installed fencing. After a request from the landowners, AmeriCorps worked to stabilize the area.

This November Petaluma AmeriCorps returned to Stemple Creek on another willow planting expedition. The project area is located along Walker Road on the property of dairy farmers, Joe and Kathy Tresch. AmeriCorps members cleared fallen willows and debris from the creek, and constructed willow wall revetments along a 130 foot section of the creek in four days. The walls were constructed of willow poles, jute netting small willow branches, brush, soil and

backfill. The live willow poles were anchored into the bank and smaller branches were woven in between. Brush

by AmeriCorps members, "We were fortunate to have AmeriCorps members active in the Stemple Creek



The North Bay AmeriCorp Cluster take a break to view the willow wall revetment on Stemple Creek.

and soil stabilized the wall. The willows and the brush used for the walls were taken from the area and all disturbed areas were seeded and mulched

Project design and supervision was provided by Mike Jensen and Harold Appleton of the local environmental firm Prunuske Chatham, Inc. Appleton and Jensen, a former AmeriCorps member, helped supervise the project.

AmeriCorps members were not the only ones excited about the completion of the willow wall revetment. Joe and Kathy Tresch were extremely pleased with the work done

revetment project. AmeriCorps members helped us enhance our watershed ... AmeriCorps members help the community and we think they're great."

AmeriCorps members from Fish and Game, Lakeport and Adopt-a-Watershed were also on-site to help in the construction. This was the first project the new AmeriCorps members of this field office worked on from start to finish. "I enjoyed being a part of the AmeriCorps team. It was satisfying to see the project through to completion," said AmeriCorps member Robert Rand..



AmeriCorps Does Project On Auburn Ravine

by James May

A joint restoration project among several federal, state and county agencies took place in early November. AmeriCorps members helped the various agencies to reinforce a stream bank on Auburn Ravine in Placer County. The stream had severely eroded it's south

flow and provide access to the site. The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provided technical assistance. The NRCS brought in AmeriCorps members Jim Newman and James May to assist in both the survey and the actual labor of the project. They worked



James Newman and James May (l to r) helped build the gabion baskets to protect this house on Auburn Ravine.

bank during northern California's January floods threatening nearby structures.

The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provided technical assistance by designing a reinforcement structure of 144 interwoven 3'x 9' wire basket gabions filled with rock. Placer County's Office of Emergency Services (OES) initiated the project and worked with other local agencies to regulate water

side by side with workers from Placer County's Department of Public Works (DPW) and an inmate crew from California Department of Forestry's Washington Ridge Camp. A local homeowner and prime recipient of this project's benefits said that without the reinforcement her house would have fallen into the creek the next time the creek reached flood stage..

Redding AmeriCorp

by Christine Zachai

AmeriCorps members Christine Zachai and Aaron Brondyke are helping fifth and eighth grade classes, to develop an outdoor science classroom at Columbia School in Redding. Meteorology, soil science, ecology-almost anything that Mother Nature has to offer will soon be easier for Columbia School educators to teach. Brondyke and Zachai are currently planning the project.

The AmeriCorps members' other responsibilities at NRCS have included computer map-making, fisheries improvement in the Fall River area, handling local landowner information requests, and vegetation mapping of Grass Valley Creek watershed.

Four other AmeriCorps members are working for NRCS throughout northern California on a wide variety of projects. The Salmon Disaster Relief Program in Eureka, Humboldt Redwoods State Park, the Humboldt County Planning Department, and the CERT office in Mad River have all started projects with AmeriCorps workers.

AmeriCorps workers in the Watershed Program across the North State are also promoting conservation in local elementary and middle schools by adopting a stream closest to their schools and caring for it. This is known as the Adopt-a-Watershed program..



AmeriCorps Native Americans Reclaim Their Heritage

by James May

I was always raised with my culture. It didn't always mean that I was proud of it though. My culture is the Keetoowah a band of distinct Cherokee Indians who cling more stridently to traditional ways. For example you have to be at least a quarter Indian to even be enrolled in my tribe or at least have some compelling heritage if you are not. My father still speaks the language and has tried to instill a pride of heritage in me from a very young age.

The problem was that I got a very different message from the media. Indians were either the bad guys in the old westerns or some kind of mystical sages spewing forth words of wisdom and knowing instinctively how to communicate with natural forces. I felt very weird about that. The Indian people I knew were much like anyone else and most would die of exposure if left out in the woods overnight without equipment. What was worse, generally spoken, was Indian people's not so lofty place on the socio-economic scale in modern society. People would refer to yards strewn with old cars as "Indian front yards" even though most of the owners of these properties were white.

Since I was the only Native American in the community I grew up in my family was something of an anomaly. Whenever there was a Native American celebration at my school my father would be called on to give a small presentation. It made me feel somehow different from my classmates at a time when all I wanted to do was fit in and being singled out made me feel different.

I also got mixed messages of history from home and school. My father, who is no fan of political correctness, would however tell me the truth about people who were billed as heroes during history lessons. In school Andrew Jackson was a good man. They talked of tariffs and nullification and the Bank of the United States. At home my father would tell me about how he forced us to move from our ancient homeland in the southern Appalachians in the middle of winter to march nearly a thousand miles

west to Oklahoma. During this march, called the "Trail of Tears" one quarter of my tribe died. I heard scarce mention of this in school.

It took me a while but over the years I began to understand my father's pride. Immediately after college I went to work with other Native Americans at a non-profit Native owned nursery in Sonoma County called Ya-Ka-Ama. When it came time to leave there to take this job with AmeriCorps I was apprehensive about telling my friends there that I was going to work for the government. I shouldn't have worried they were all supportive of AmeriCorps and were excited at the prospect of having another Indian working for the government. One friend of mine said "The only way to change the wrongs of the past and present is to have more Indians receive job training and education so we can better our people's status."

Once I arrived in Auburn I found out that my fellow AmeriCorps member **Jim Newman** also has Native heritage as IS new AmeriCorps member **Lana Osgood** who also is part of the Auburn-Placerville-Yuba City cluster. Both of them could relate to my stories of turning shame into pride. We realize that without the diverse cultures of our Native people America would not be what it is today. AmeriCorps is made up of Americans of all kinds of different backgrounds. We are part of our entire society. When people ask me why can't we just give up this tribal stuff and declare ourselves all Americans they miss the point. After all what is more American than a Native American. We just want our culture to be an enrichment of the whole.



Fire (from front page)

private lands to reduce erosion and stabilize the soil in the burned areas. With 400 acres to cover our task was BIG.

Nancy and I assisted Liz Lewis, Creek Naturalist with Marin County Public Works. MCC crews had to carry ten to twenty pound bags of seed. Earl Ruby, a forest fire burn specialist was called to provide expertise on the implementation of the rehabilitation measures. He taught us how to make straw bale check dams and log terraces to slow sediment runoff to mitigate the impacts of the fire on the soil.

During the course of the project I inspected the seeded and mulched areas, check dams, log terraces and took photos to document the work. I enjoyed the job and particularly liked doing some of the duties of a government inspector. Working on the Mt. Vision fire has given me a unique opportunity for Emergency Watershed Protection experience...one that I will not soon forget..

Storm Traps Member

by James May

James Newman was trapped for nearly two hours in the office elevator in Auburn. The event made local radio and print news. The elevator stopped as a result of a widespread power outage due to the powerful December storm. Rescue crews found a very bored but otherwise alright AmeriCorps member..

Redding AmeriCorps Do Analysis on Clear Creek

by Christine Zachai

Remember the fall run of Chinook salmon that used to surge up Clear Creek every year? No? Neither do AmeriCorps members Aaron Brondyke or Christine Zachai, but they have been focusing all their attention the last five months on trying to turn Clear Creek back into the first class salmon and steelhead stream that it once was. Zachai and Brondyke are working as members of the Watershed Analysis Team, a multi-agency effort to identify problems and solutions in the Clear Creek Watershed, as well as assisting with a variety of other NRCS projects in Shasta county.

When finished, the Clear Creek Watershed Analysis will result in a planning document for this sensitive watershed to the west of Redding. The Watershed Analysis is also a process which is designed to identify problems upon which to focus environmental restoration efforts. Local "Jobs in the Woods" workers will be employed to undertake these restoration projects. Their jobs will focus on reducing erosion problems and wildfire risk on the watershed, in addition to improving the streams quality as salmon and steelhead habitat..

More on the Authors . .

Valerie Bridges

She is a recent graduate of Cal State University, Hayward with a degree in Environmental Health. She hopes to work in a field related to her degree. Eventually she would like to use her experience to improve conditions in her hometown of Oakland, CA.

James May

James is a graduate of CSU, Chico. he has a degree in English and it has been one of his primary goals to establish an AmeriCorps newsletter. He plans on becoming a journalist. His hometown is Cotati, CA.

Christine Zachai

With a B.S. in Environmental Resource management from Pennsylvania State University, Christine is developing a GIS for watershed analysis at the Redding Field Office. She plans on entering the bioremediation field. Her hometown is West Chester, PA.

Aaron Brondyke

Aaron is a native of Maryland and a 1995 graduate of Penn State University with a degree in Environmental Resource Management with honors in Plant Pathology. Aaron hopes that his experiences in the West will better prepare himself for a future job managing forested watersheds.



"Getting Things Done" Welcomes Your Response

If you would like to contribute or be added to the mailing list contact the editor at (916) 823-5687. We would like to hear from you.

Northern California AmeriCorps Clusters

NORTHSTATE CLUSTER:

Christine Zachai, NRCS Redding FO; Aaron Brondyke, NRCS Redding FO; (Incomplete List)

NORTHBAY CLUSTER

Stephanie Carey, NRCS Petaluma FO; Valerie Bridges, NRCS Petaluma FO; Nancy Scolari, NRCS Petaluma FO; Robert Rand, NRCS Petaluma FO; Chris Auld, NRCS Lakeport FO

SIERRA FOOTHILL CLUSTER

Jim Newman, NRCS Auburn FO; Tricia Price, NRCS Placerville FO; Lana Osgood, NRCS Yuba City FO; James May, NRCS Auburn FO

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Rebecca De Torre

Chief Editor

James May

Editors-

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Valerie Bridges

Christine Zachai

Contributing Writers-

Robert Rand

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James May

Christine Zachai

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Rebecca De la Torre &

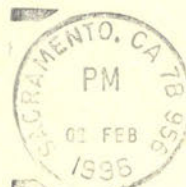
James May

Northern California AmeriCorps Newsletter

c/o High Sierra RC&D

251 Auburn Ravine Rd. Ste.101

Auburn, CA 95603



Joel Berg, USDA National Service Director
AG Box 1310
14th e Independence, SW
Washington, DC
20250-1310



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

{COPY PREVIOUSLY SENT BY FAX}

March 6, 1996

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Attention: Mr. Dean Zerbe

Dear Senator Grassley:

This letter is in response to the request of Mr. Dean Zerbe of your office, made by telephone on February 29, 1996, that the Department of Agriculture ("USDA") provide to you in writing the answers to several questions that you have concerning the USDA AmeriCorps program and the AmeriCorps/USDA First Annual Report (the "Report"). Specifically, Mr. Zerbe posed three questions, which may be fairly phrased as follows:

- 1. What are the legal authorities for USDA to produce the Report?*
- 2. What was the cost to USDA of producing the Report?*
- 3. What was the amount and cost of staff time that was required to produce the Report?*

Printed below are our responses to these questions:

- 1. What are the legal authorities for USDA to produce the Report?*

These are several authorities, both specific and general, that USDA relied upon in producing the Report. The most specific authority is found at Section C.21 of Interagency Cooperative Agreement No. 94ADFDC047 (the "Agreement"), dated October 19, 1994, between the Corporation for National and Community Service (the "Corporation") and USDA. This section, a copy of which we are including with this letter {Attachment "A"}, was the legal instrument by which the Corporation provided assistance to USDA to run an AmeriCorps program pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12571(b)(1). Section C.21 (*Reporting Requirements*) of the Agreement expressly requires USDA, as a recipient of assistance from the Corporation, to prepare an Annual Report that provides a summary of the program's accomplishments and service for the year. The information contained in the Report is used, in turn, by the Corporation in its report to Congress, which is mandated by 42 U.S.C. § 12632(b).

In addition to the specific authority contained in the Agreement, general authority to produce such reports may be found at 7 U.S.C. § 2207, which authorizes USDA to make reports from time to time on particular subjects, and at 7 U.S.C. § 2201, which generally authorizes USDA to disseminate information on activities within its purview.

2. What was the cost to USDA of producing the Report?

As a consequence of our efforts to produce the Report for the lowest possible cost by utilizing only one color of ink, one color of paper, non-gloss paper, and only one photograph, the Report was produced at a minimal cost to the American taxpayer -- less than a \$4,387 total cost for printing, design, lay out, and shipping. The total cost for printing all copies of the Report was \$2,837. The total cost of salary and supplies to pay for the in-house design, lay out, and camera-ready production of the Report was \$1,050. Additional shipping costs -- including envelopes, postage, and stationery for the cover letters --- were no more than \$500. Thus, these combined costs for designing, printing, and mailing the Report were no more than \$4,387.

3. What was the amount and cost of staff time that was required to produce the Report?

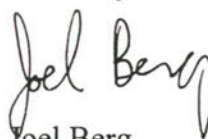
Pursuant to Section C.21 of the Agreement, all USDA AmeriCorps projects were required to submit four quarterly progress reports to USDA. Given the pre-existence of this requirement and the fact that the Report was based solely on a compilation of these reports, individual USDA AmeriCorps projects spent little or no significant additional staff time compiling the Report. As Director of National Service, USDA, I personally compiled, wrote, and designed the first version of the report; the activities required approximately 110 hours of my time, many of which were at night, during weekends, and during holidays. Since I do not receive any compensation for any overtime hours I work, little or no additional tax dollars were spent on staff time to produce this report.

I hope this information will assure you that USDA has taken every possible step to significantly reduce costs at the same time we meet our requirement to inform the Corporation, state commissions, and other entities about the progress of our AmeriCorps projects.

I would be pleased to also provide any information you might request about the success of USDA AmeriCorps projects in Iowa or nationally. Additionally, I would like to offer an open invitation to you and/or your staff to visit any USDA AmeriCorps sites either in Iowa or elsewhere in the country on any occasion that is convenient for you. Please contact me again at (202) 720-5746 if you would like to arrange such a visit or if you require additional information.

I thank you for your interest in our program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Berg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joel Berg

Director of National Service, USDA

established for the period. Quantifiable data demonstrating results and evaluation data and information shall also be developed and delivered.

Financial reports must be submitted to the Corporation on form SF 269A.

The Grantee should submit quarterly and annual reports to the Office of National and Community Service Program's Grants Office. These reports should contain the following information by the following dates:

January 3rd - 1st Quarter

(The first report for the first year is due January 3rd regardless of the Grantee's start date.)

- Financial Status Report (form SF 269A)
- Number of participants (full-time and part-time)
- Hours of Service this quarter (direct service by full-time and part-time)
- Staff/structural changes
- Primary accomplishments and progress toward objectives
- Primary challenges/Problems encountered
- Important findings from internal evaluation
- Comparison of actual accomplishments with the goals and objectives established for the period

April 3 - 2nd Quarter

- All information required for the January 3rd reporting period
- Sources of matching funds

July 3 - 3rd Quarter

- All information required for the January 3rd reporting period

October 3 - Annual Report

- All information required for the January 3rd reporting period but as a summary for the year for the total accomplishments and service for the year

- Final Report

- Replaces the Annual Report for the last period of the grant including any renewals
- A final report is due within 90 days of the expiration or termination of the grant award
- All information required for the quarterly reports but as a summary for the full period of the grant
- This report should contain a summary of the program's accomplishments and compare them to the original objectives and all evaluation data and information

Other reports. The Grantee is responsible for notifying the Corporation immediately of any significant problems either technical or fiscal.

MARK O. HATFIELD
OREGON

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3701

August 7, 1995

Ms. Roberta Prowell
P. O. Box 3346
Applegate, Oregon 97530

Dear Ms. Prowell:

Thank you for taking the time to get in touch with me. I found your comments very interesting and welcome this opportunity to respond to your concerns.

The last Congress passed President Clinton's national service legislation, which provides financial benefits to students to apply to the costs of their education in exchange for community service. I supported final passage of this legislation, after it was significantly reduced in its fiscal impact, because I endorse the concept of national service. I am hopeful that a national effort will inspire a recommitment to our democratic traditions. We must build upon the premise that democracy is the involvement of all citizens in a common civic life.

I continue to have concerns, however, about the method by which we implement a new national service program. I am not solely convinced that volunteerism requires federal intervention. The very essence of "volunteerism" is that it is driven by an individual's desire to give of themselves for the benefit of others, without benefit to themselves. I hope this new federal effort will enhance this concept, rather than replace it with the concept of giving of oneself only when an incentive is involved.

During consideration of this legislation, I supported efforts to begin national service on a limited basis. In these troubled times when we are facing an underfunded Pell Grant program and underfunded campus-based aid programs, I did not feel we could responsibly enact a new national service program which called for nearly \$400 million in first-year funding alone. The more prudent approach is to test our ability to meet the challenge of a full-fledged, federally supported national service structure.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am committed to seeing that there is adequate funding to allow for a proper evaluation of the Corporation for National and Community Service's success. Be assured I will keep your views and comments in mind as the House and Senate confer on this issue.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Ms. Roberta Prowell
Page 2

Thank you again for writing. I am always eager for your input,
and I hope you will continue to share your views with me in the
months and years ahead.

Kind regards.

Sincerely,



Mark O. Hatfield
United States Senator

MOH/shj
11137-11138

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

RICHARD G. LUGAR

INDIANA

306 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
202-224-4814

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
CHAIRMAN
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1401

October 31, 1995

Cadet Roger Eades
Company D-1
Box 675
West Point, New York 10997-0675

Dear Roger:

Thank you for contacting my office to express your views. I welcome the opportunity to respond.

I share your view that the intentions of the AmeriCorps program are laudable. However, I voted against funding for this program because I have reservations about its creation of additional government bureaucracy and its cost, which is estimated to exceed \$1.5 billion over three years. In a period of dire fiscal austerity in the Federal government, I believe the AmeriCorps program, however well-meaning, is too large and too costly.

Thank you, again, for taking the time to share your views with me.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator

RGL/bsb

DAN COATS
INDIANA

404 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-5623

INDIANAPOLIS OFFICE:
1180 MARKET TOWER, 10 WEST MARKET STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204
(317) 226-5555

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
LABOR AND HUMAN
RESOURCES

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 23, 1995

Cadet Roger Eades
Company D-1
Box 675
West Point, New York 10997-0675

Dear Roger:

Thank you for contacting me regarding AmeriCorps. I appreciate hearing from you.

I recognize the extent to which America depends on the service of volunteers. Volunteers provide aid to the poor, handicapped and aged in ways beyond the reach of bureaucracy. Their service transforms the volunteers as well as sharpening their capacity for concern and instilling a sense of accomplishment. An ethic of service is the evidence of a true community.

Service to America is one of our nation's finest traditions. It is important, first, because it is right and good. It is vital, second, because it meets social needs that government bureaucrats can not fill. No government program can fully supply the ingredients necessary to address many of our most pressing social problems. The need for love and self-esteem is simply beyond the blunt instruments of bureaucracy.

Government has a role in nurturing service -- but that role should be limited. It can encourage innovative and energetic volunteers who are the most direct instruments of transformation and hope in many communities. But it must not think it can simply buy that kind of activity with federal funds. When volunteers are paid or enticed with future benefits, the nature of their service is changed.

As you know, the 104th Congress has pledged to cut the budget deficit, by among other things, cutting spending and limiting growth in other programs. Congress is evaluating every government program individually to carefully prioritize spending. It is going to involve some very difficult choices.

Cadet Roger Eades
October 23, 1995
Page 2

Again, thank you for taking the time to apprise me of your views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Coats". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "D" and a cursive "Coats".

Dan Coats
U. S. Senator

DC:dmj

enclosure

REPUBLICAN SUPPORTERS

NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE TRUST ACT
OF 1993

HOUSE

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GILCHREST (MD)
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WALSH (NY)

SENATE

CHAFEE (RI)
HATFIELD (OR)
JEFFORDS (VT)
SHELBY (AL)*

SNOWE (ME)**
SPECTER (PA)
STEVENS (AK)

*Voted for the authorizing bill as a Democratic member of the Senate in 1993.

**Voted for the authorizing bill as a Member of the House in 1993.

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

TELEFAX TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

TO: Joel Berg
OF: _____
FROM: Maggie Whitney
OF: _____

DATE: _____

TIME: _____

2 PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4602

April 5, 1996

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

Dear Kit,

I am writing to clarify my understanding of the ability of federal agencies to sponsor AmeriCorps projects once the Corporation for National Service ceases providing direct grants of operating funds to such agencies.

I am most concerned about the future of the AmeriCorps program sponsored by the Department of Agriculture (USDA). In Vermont, the USDA sponsors an Anti-Hunger Team, a Rural Development Team and a Public Lands and Environment Team that have received bipartisan support throughout the state. I understand that the USDA also has well-functioning AmeriCorps projects in over 40 other states, including Missouri. In many of these states, the USDA provides virtually the only AmeriCorps presence in rural communities.

While I fully understand your position that the Corporation no longer make direct grants to federal agencies, I would like to explore with you an approach that will provide effective AmeriCorps projects sponsored by the USDA the opportunity to continue.

I strongly believe that the USDA should continue to be able to use its own appropriated funds to support AmeriCorps projects, with no grant funds to the Department from the Corporation involved. AmeriCorps participants in these projects, upon successful completion of service, would be eligible for the educational awards directly from the National Service Trust Fund.

This approach has three important advantages. First, it adheres to the position that no Corporation funds be awarded to federal agencies. Second, it is consistent with the agreement of Members of the Senate and the Corporation that partnerships be expanded to provide "education awards only" to AmeriCorps projects, while the projects themselves provide all operating funds. Third, since the projects would be funded from current USDA appropriations, additional expenditure of tax dollars would not be required.

The Honorable Kit Bond
April 5, 1996
Page 2

I have asked the USDA and the Corporation to comment on this approach and put together a proposal on how it could be best executed. I look forward to working with you to continue a strong AmeriCorps program.

Sincerely,


PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator

PJL/mew

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation
Service

1370 Hamilton Street
Somerset, NJ
08873

February 20, 1996

Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg
Suite 1001
1 Gateway Center
Newark, NJ 07102

Dear Sen. Lautenberg:

Enclosed is an article noting the work that two of our AmeriCorps National Service Program members performed in assisting FEMA with natural disaster work in Pennsylvania. As you can tell from the quotes, both Doris Ignatow and Kevin Braniff are enthusiastic about serving community needs and helping when needed. This is the spirit that is shown by our AmeriCorps members in general when performing natural resource conservation work.

Through our AmeriCorps program in New Jersey we are providing assistance to watershed groups and other local organizations and agencies with trail restoration, stream cleanups, wildlife habitat enhancements, brochures for public information, dune grass planting along the New Jersey shore, and many other public service projects.

Feel free to contact me regarding the work of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the AmeriCorps program at (908) 246-1205.

Sincerely,



Wayne Maresch
State Conservationist

✓ c.c. Joel Berg, USDA AmeriCorps Director

enclosure

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation
Service

1370 Hamilton Street
Somerset, NJ
08873

February 20, 1996

Sen. Bill Bradley
1 Newark Center
16th Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

Dear Sen. Bradley:

Enclosed is an article noting the work that two of our AmeriCorps National Service Program members performed in assisting FEMA with natural disaster work in Pennsylvania. As you can tell from the quotes, both Doris Ignatow and Kevin Braniff are enthusiastic about serving community needs and helping when needed. This is the spirit that is shown by our AmeriCorps members in general when performing natural resource conservation work.

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Sincerely,

Wayne M. Maresch

Wayne Maresch
State Conservationist

J. Lieberman
✓ c.c. Joel Berg, USDA AmeriCorps Director

enclosure

6:2 FYI - Joel

April 5, 1996

To: Martha Phipps, Charlie Rawls, Dave Carlin
From: Joel Berg *JB*
Subject: **Letter from Senator Leahy to Senator Bond**

I thought you might be interested to see the attached letter from Senator Leahy to Senator Bond --- chair of the appropriations sub-committee that funds the Corporation for National Service --- specifically praising the USDA portion of AmeriCorps.

The letter seeks to clarify Leahy's understanding that, under the compromise recently passed by the Senate to restore funding for the overall AmeriCorps program, the USDA component of AmeriCorps will be able to continue.

Please Follow-up
With Gene, Maggie
Whitney, and Hank
to see if Glickman needs to be
involved or if we need similar
letters from Wellstone, Robb, etc.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4602

April 5, 1996

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

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While I fully understand your position that the Corporation no longer make direct grants to federal agencies, I would like to explore with you an approach that will provide effective AmeriCorps projects sponsored by the USDA the opportunity to continue.

I strongly believe that the USDA should continue to be able to use its own appropriated funds to support AmeriCorps projects, with no grant funds to the Department from the Corporation involved. AmeriCorps participants in these projects, upon successful completion of service, would be eligible for the educational awards directly from the National Service Trust Fund.

This approach has three important advantages. First, it adheres to the position that no Corporation funds be awarded to federal agencies. Second, it is consistent with the agreement of Members of the Senate and the Corporation that partnerships be expanded to provide "education awards only" to AmeriCorps projects, while the projects themselves provide all operating funds. Third, since the projects would be funded from current USDA appropriations, additional expenditure of tax dollars would not be required.

The Honorable Kit Bond

April 5, 1996

Page 2

I have asked the USDA and the Corporation to comment on this approach and put together a proposal on how it could be best executed. I look forward to working with you to continue a strong AmeriCorps program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Leahy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patrick" and last name "Leahy" clearly distinguishable.

PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator

PJL/mew

Dorothy Reese

601-453-2762

Susan Munar

501-664-2531

W. J. Brey

Dan

575-421-6299

Carilla

703-

237-1555

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

SENATE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>SupportFS</u>	<u>Support NCSA</u>	<u>Meet</u>	<u>95FS</u>	<u>96FS</u>	<u>95USDA</u>	<u>96USDA</u>
Gorton	R	Y?	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Stevens	R	?	Y	N	N	N	N	?
Cochran	R	?	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Domenici	R	?	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hatfield	R	Y?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Burns	R	?	N	N	N	Y	N	N
Bennett	R	?	N	N	Y	Y	N	N
Mack	R	?	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Byrd	D	Y?	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Johnston	D	?	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Leahy	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bumpers	D	?	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Hollings	D	?	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Reid	D	?	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Murray	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

HOUSE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>SupportFS</u>	<u>Support NCSA</u>	<u>Meet</u>	<u>95FS</u>	<u>96FS</u>	<u>95USDA</u>	<u>96USDA</u>
Regula	R	?	N	N	N	N	?	?
McDade	R	?	N	N	N	N	N	?
Kolbe	R	?	N	N	N	N	Y	?
Skeen	R	?	N	N	N	N	Y	?
Vucan.	R	?	N	N	N	N	N	N
Taylor	R	?	N	Dist.	N	Y	Y	Y
Nether.	R	N	N	Y	?	?	Y	Y
Bunn	R	?	N	N	?	?	?	?
Living.	R							
Yates	D	?	Y	N	N	N	?	?
Dicks	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Bevill	D	?	?	N	N	N	N	?
Skaggs	D	?	?	N	N	N	N	N
Obey	D							

✓ K. GIBNEY
FOR JOEL BERG
LIZ JONES

Page 1

Note for Jackson, Anita

*** URGENT ***

From: Toscano, J
Date: Wed, Mar 13, 1996 10:58 PM
Subject: News conference transcript
To: CNCSALLEMPLOYEES

David Premo was kind enough to provide this transcript of the as-delivered statements by Harris Wofford and Senator Chuck Grassley at today's news conference.

Transcript of Press Conference
March 13, 1996, 3 pm

Senator Chuck Grassley:

As many of you know, during the last year and-a-half, I have raised some very serious concerns about the costs and management of the AmeriCorps program. At my request last summer, the General Accounting Office (GAO) issued a report that I feel verified my concerns. The GAO found that on average, the cost to field an AmeriCorps participant is almost \$27,000. And another point that I wanted investigated was the amount coming from the private sector...as it turns out eight percent was.

There's no question that these measurements are not consistent with the goals and vision of AmeriCorps originally expressed by President Clinton. Just the same, I have stated that I would be willing to support funding for the AmeriCorps program if the administration would commit to several meaningful program reforms. Many of those changes have been advocated by Congressman Pete Hoekstra, of Michigan.

Most importantly was to get the cost per participant down, sharply reduced, and the private sector contribution must be dramatically increased. In fact, I think you could sum this up by my statement that the administration must reinvent AmeriCorps, or if not risk losing the program.

My goal all along has been to ensure that the taxpayers' hard-earned money is spent wisely, and most importantly to increase the number of young people receiving money for college. In other words, to get more bang for the AmeriCorps buck.

I met several weeks ago with Senator Wofford. Since then, we have been negotiating over how to improve and reinvent the AmeriCorps program. These discussions have been very productive and very constructive and I appreciate Senator Harris Wofford's leadership, and I am impressed with his sincere efforts to reform the program. There is no question that the Corporation has benefitted from his commitment, and from the fresh perspective he has brought to it as chief executive officer. Under his watch, we've seen some real progress.

So today we are here to announce a strategy for reform. Now while there might still be some points for him to discuss, Senator Wofford has pledged to end all AmeriCorps grants to other federal agencies. Instead, all money will be directed outside of the federal bureaucracy. Control costs and get the cost per participant closer in line with the President's promised \$17,000 rather than the \$27,000 per participant. And his pledge that private sector match and to establish a true private-public partnership.

What's more, the Corporation has agreed to dramatically expand a program I have advocated to help more young people get to college. It recognizes students for successful service to their communities. This will help even more kids get to college, and it will directly reward volunteerism. The program works by directing Corporation dollars to nonprofit service

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groups and state governments to make Education Awards' that recognize outstanding community service. The only money that the federal government puts into this is for the award. It is critical, in my view, that the Corporation cooperate with the well-respected non-profit volunteer organizations that have done (so much) over a long period of time so much to help so many.

Now looking ahead, I will continue...I pledge to all of you concerned that maybe Chuck Grassley is changing...that I will continue aggressive oversight regarding the financial management of AmeriCorps, as I do with the Defense Department. In fact, I would like to see a chief financial officer for the Corporation put in place immediately.

So I thank you now, Harris, for your commitment to meaningful reform. Now the hard work really begins. But in the final analysis working together we can achieve a fiscally responsible program that is going to help more young Americans get a college education.

[applause]

Harris Wofford:

Chuck...Senator Grassley, Congressman Hoekstra is also someone who has invested a tremendous amount of time and leadership in looking at AmeriCorps critically and helpfully, a process which has to continue with the other body at least as seriously as the process with the Senate.

I've long admired and appreciated Senator Grassley's work as a watchdog -- of other government agencies. But it is, I have to admit, a test of that appreciation when we are the agency being watched. I believe we are meeting that test, and we will continue to meet that test.

I think that this is, I believe, a good day, maybe even a historic day, for national service and to people working to get things done. Thanks to the leadership of Sen. Grassley, we have taken a quantum leap toward making national service truly bipartisan - as it has been in the past, and as it must be in the future.

Throughout much of the twentieth century, the idea of civilian national service has drawn support from across the political spectrum. The ranks of national service supporters have included William F. Buckley and Robert F. Kennedy; Sam Nunn and Barbara Mikulski; Gov. John Engler and Bill Clinton; Colin Powell and Norman Schwartzkopf.

The Peace Corps, which I was privileged to be in at the creation, has for years had bipartisan support. By the way, I believe a majority of members of Congress over the years who served in the Peace Corps, by my count, are Republicans.

Nancy Reagan wrote a book praising the Foster Grandparents program, one of the key programs now run by the Corporation for National Service.

George Bush signed into law the National Community Service Act of 1990 - which passed the Senate 75-21. That law formed the basis of the current AmeriCorps program.

Bob Dole in 1992 helped usher through the law creating the National Civilian Community Corps, a program based on downsized military bases - and which is now part of AmeriCorps.

And Bill Clinton proposed AmeriCorps, a chance for tens of thousands of young Americans to serve their communities in exchange for help in paying for education or vocational training.

Americans want Republicans and Democrats to work together when the goals are worthwhile. And today, I'm delighted to say, we are demonstrating anew that national service is bipartisan.

On the floor of the Senate today is a continuing resolution that reinforces this point. Senators Hatfield and Bond, working with Sen. Mikulski, the godmother of national service, have put real money in to fund AmeriCorps. We're still discussing the actual level, but it is good that these thoughtful Republicans are ready to support substantial funding for national service.

In an era of downsizing government, national service can be a non-bureaucratic way to solve

some of society's most critical problems. This becomes obvious to anyone who has seen AmeriCorps members dramatically raising reading scores of disadvantaged students, hauling garbage from polluted rivers or helping Habitat for Humanity to lead thousands of unpaid volunteers to build low income housing.

If done properly, it is not wasteful government spending but precisely the opposite - an antidote to bureaucracy. It asks people to give to their country instead of just getting benefits. It asks Americans to give, not just to receive.

Sen. Grassley, as you know, has been a tough critic of AmeriCorps - a very tough critic - and a relentless foe of government inefficiency. With the steps we have taken, and will take, we will live up to Senator Grassley's highest expectations. That's our determination. Let me also add that all of the steps that improve AmeriCorps program and are steps we should be taking even without his challenge, but I welcome his challenge and appreciate it.

I'm delighted that, having taken these steps and pledged to do more, we have now met one of the toughest tests I know, the Grassley Test. We are on the way to showing a tough critic can become a good working partner. We know full well that he will be back with us again and again, suggesting, prodding, criticizing, and questioning. We welcome that. We also know we will only retain his support if we do what we say we are going to do.

This is about reinventing government, not so much about paperwork or regulations, but listening, learning, and changing. Too few government programs do that. We have listened to Sen. Grassley, learned from him, and changed.

Let me particularly thank Sen. Grassley for the special push he is giving to the idea of expanding the numbers of educational service scholarships, without other program support from the Corporation, to those who serve a year, or more for some sustained period of time, in non-profit organizations not in an AmeriCorps grant program. This should enable religious organizations, higher education institutions and other non-profits with alternative funding sources to increase opportunities for service. If this education-award-only approach proves as successful as I think it will be in multiplying the numbers of those who serve and cutting federal costs, you, Sen. Grassley, will long be remembered for your creative role with us.

Let me also emphasize that the progress we have made is not all just my doing. It happened because most of the staff at the Corporation for National Service, people who have been fighting to make AmeriCorps succeed since its inception, have been working tirelessly to improve the program.

So thank you Sen. Grassley. I look forward to working with you to make AmeriCorps a program in which all Americans can take pride in.

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Note for Jackson, Anita

*** URGENT ***

From: Toscano, J
Date: Wed, Mar 13, 1996 11:15 PM
Subject: 10 step agreement
To: _CNCSALLEMPLOYEES

This is a summary of the 10 steps that the Corporation is taking to improve AmeriCorps and cut costs, the subject of today's news conference with Senator Chuck Grassley (IA)

10 STEPS TO
IMPROVE AMERICORPS & CUT COSTS
A Briefer

1. Reduce Per-Member Costs

The Corporation has already reduced costs from the start-up year to the second. Per member costs in the AmeriCorps state grant program represent an average real reduction of about 7 percent per member. Grantees with above-average costs will be asked to cut costs by 10 percent in the next grant cycle. The AmeriCorps*National Civilian Community Corps has closed one base, cut living allowances by half, and cut HQ staff by 25 percent and campus staff by 30 percent. The Corporation will develop additional cost-cutting targets and timetables in the next 60 days.

2. Eliminate Grants to Fed Agencies

The Corporation has notified federal agency grantees that grants will no longer be made to federal agencies. Local nonprofits who had been affiliated with federal agency programs will be free to apply for funding on their own to sponsor AmeriCorps members utilized by those nonprofits.

3. Further Steps to Prohibit Lobbying

The Corporation has addressed concerns by again requesting that state commissions and national direct grantees firmly remind AmeriCorps sponsors of all prohibited activities, including lobbying and partisan political activities. Programs must delineate specific actions they will take to ensure that AmeriCorps members do not engage in improper political activities. The Corporation will continue to investigate, on a priority basis, every allegation brought to its attention and take quick decisive action.

4. Decrease Reliance on Federal Funding

AmeriCorps programs exceeded goals for private sector fundraising, raising more than \$41 million last year. In the next grant cycle, the Corporation will raise the matching requirement for program support from 25 percent to 33 percent.

5. Increase "Special National Service Scholarships"

The Corporation is developing a plan to expand substantially the number of sponsors who receive no direct funding from the Corporation, but whose members earn education awards from the National Service Trust. This arrangement may enable religious organizations, higher education institutions, and other organizations with alternative funding sources to expand.

6. Increase Collaboration with National Non-Profit Organizations

The Corporation is strengthening and increasing collaboration with national nonprofit service

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organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the American Red Cross, and with a growing number of religious organizations such as Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and the National Council of Churches.

7. Increase State Autonomy

The Corporation was established as a partnership between the Federal Government and the states. Governor-appointed national service commissions in each state have been informed that if they have instituted appropriate peer review processes, the Corporation will no longer review their formula grant selections. As the states enhance their capacity, further devolution will occur.

8. Improve Grant Review

The Inspector General has identified areas to strengthen grant competitions. The Corporation is reviewing the draft recommendations and plans to implement quickly those that are workable, as well as other measures to improve this critical process.

9. Expand Efforts in Evaluation

The Corporation's goal is to develop evaluation systems that make increasing use of our network of service programs and their expertise, and encourage private sector and independent sector efforts to evaluate service programs.

10. Increase and Strengthen Occasional (unpaid) Volunteers

The Corporation is committed to emphasizing the role of AmeriCorps members as recruiters, organizers, and leaders of traditional occasional volunteers. Volunteer generation is now a priority in the 1997 competition for project renewals. In the fourth quarter of the first year, over three additional community volunteers were recruited for every AmeriCorps member serving. From July 1, 1995 through September 30, 1995, it is estimated that AmeriCorps members recruited at least 73,000 volunteers who contributed over 700,000 hours of service to their communities. By further emphasizing this role, the Corporation will increase the value added by each AmeriCorps member and by each federal dollar invested in national service.

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