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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

July 12, 2007

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The Vice President
United States Senate
The Capitol
Room S-212 Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Vice President Cheney:

The Committee on Natural Resources will hold a hearing on July 31, 2007, to examine the role that elected officials and political appointees within the Administration have played in the scientific decision making processes under the Endangered Species Act and other laws governing the conservation and management of our nation's natural resources. I cordially invite you to testify at this hearing.

As you are aware, a June 27, 2007 Washington Post article detailed your apparent efforts, as well as the efforts of political appointees in the Administration, to influence a wide range of scientific and policy decisions at the Department of Interior and Commerce to benefit industry at the expense of our natural resources. For example, the article alleges that your intervention in the development of a 10-year water plan for the Klamath River resulted in a 2002 die-off of around 70,000 salmon near the California-Oregon border – the largest adult salmon kill in the history of the West. We invite you, as a former member of this Committee, to offer your views on these reports and explain your role in this and other decisions.

Please have your staff submit electronically (in Word or WordPerfect) statements of proposed testimony to Nancy Locke, Chief Clerk, Nancy.Locke@mail.house.gov, no later than Friday, July 27, 2007. Your oral testimony should not exceed five minutes and should summarize your written remarks. You may introduce into the record any other supporting documentation you wish to present in accordance with the enclosed guidelines.

The Committee on Natural Resources Rules are available on its website at <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/> and the Rules of the House of Representatives, including clause 2(k) of Rule XI, are available at the House of Representatives' website at <http://www.house.gov/rules.pdf> . Copies can also be sent to you on request.

Page 2
Vice President Cheney

Should you or your staff have any questions or need additional information, please contact Amelia Jenkins, Jean Flemma or Ms. Nancy Locke, Chief Clerk at 202-225-6065.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

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

NICK J. RAHALL, II
Chairman

Enclosures