Honorable Senator Harrison Williams, Jr.
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sir:

I am opposed to Senate acceptance of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee bill on Alaska. The bill deletes 37 million acres from national wildlife refuges and 30 million acres of wilderness as compared to the original House bill. It mandates oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Range, an essential area for Alaska's largest caribou head. Boundary changes allow mining in portions of the Gates of the Arctic and the Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks. The committee bill cuts in half the existing Admiralty Island and Misty Fjords National Monuments, opening them to clear-cut logging.

We face a severe energy crisis. But that crisis was precipitated by America's own energy gluttony. The solution is not a relaxation of environmental standards, it is not opening more land to exploration for fossil fuels. The solution is stressing conservation and development of solar, wind, and other non-nuclear and non-fossil fuel alternatives.

We are dependent on the environment for our very life. Each year more life sustaining land is paved over, mined, or logged. Less plants remain to cope with our massive industrial pollution; even those remaining face problems with acid rain. Key inhabitants that may be vital links in the fragile web of life are losing their habitats; they may be the links necessary to cope with the current onslaught of pests. Protection of wilderness is not just for sentimental nature lovers; it is a matter of survival.

I urge you to support and co-sponsor the Tsongas-Roth Substitute Bill. Having spent a year in Alaska, I know that life there is in many ways very fragile; it needs as much protection as possible. If this substitute cannot pass, at the very least endorse co-sponsor the entire package of amendments to the committee bill; the Tsongas-Roth-McGovern National Forest Amendment, the Hart-Chafee-Randolph-Culver-Church Wildlife Refuge Amendment, the Nelson-Levin Wilderness Amendment, the Tsongas-Mathias National Park Amendment, and the Proxmire-Eagleton Rivers and Transportation Amendment. I am sure you are already aware of their provisions.

Environment is not just for wealthy nature lovers, but needed for mankind's survival.

Thank you,

Paul Schryba