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2556 Goshen Road
Bellingham, WA 98226

May 15, 1999

Mr. Thomas W. Ferns
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, MSIN HO-12
Richland, WA 99352-0550

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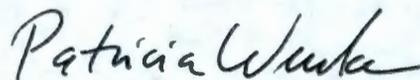
Dear Mr. Ferns,

I would like to encourage the Department of Energy to take every action in its power to protect all Hanford Site lands as a permanent national wildlife refuge and to resist pressure to allow the land to be used for farming, mining, or any other purpose that disturbs the plants and creatures that live there.

Whenever there is land available, it seems that somebody wants to use it to make money, claiming that the creation of jobs and the maintenance of so-called traditional ways of making a living should take precedence over any other purpose. I strongly disagree. To lead rich lives as humans, we have to respect and preserve our natural heritage. Self-reliant, mature people can figure out different ways to make money, but there is only one way to prevent living things from perishing. Leave their traditional environments undisturbed.

There are many decisions that government agencies can make, then modify or reverse as new information becomes known. The decision regarding the Hanford Site is not one of those. If the land is altered to destroy natural habitats, the land and its inhabitants will remain changed or destroyed forever. Please do not allow this to happen.

Sincerely,



Patricia Wenke