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Spokane, WA 99223
May 28, 1999

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DOE-RL / DIS

Hanford Remedial Action EIS
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
MSIN HO-12
Richland, WA 99352

RE: HANFORD REACH

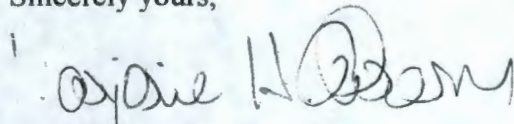
U.S. Department of Energy:

I support the revised draft Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement and comprehensive Land Use Plan of Energy Secretary Bill Richardson. All natural and sensitive lands within the Hanford Nuclear Reservation should be added to this bill to better protect this unique and fragile environment. What better way to enhance the image of Hanford and honor the "downwinders" of this region than by establishing a national wildlife refuge in this infamous nuclear reservation.

The Columbia River is the heart of Washington State. Can we not preserve this final and only stretch of natural habitat that remains today? The DoE must include all of the public lands on the Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach especially its islands, the McGee Ranch, and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. Do not give in to the greed of developers who mine the land and then move on. The people of this state have already given up too much water to agribusiness and have watched the erosion from that business further spoil the waters of the Columbia, endangering the salmon.

Please preserve the 90,000 acres of the north and east of the Hanford Reach, a magnificent national resource.

Sincerely yours,



Marjorie H. Ahrens