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DOE-RL / DIS

May 7, 1999

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

Dear Mr. Thomas W. Ferns:

I want you to know how strongly I feel about the importance of protecting the ecologically significant lands at Hanford. The Hanford Site is one of the last places in eastern Washington supporting large areas of native shrub-steppe vegetation and related wildlife.

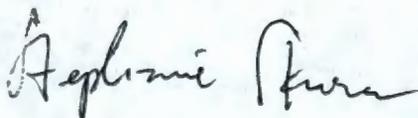
Please support the Preferred Alternative, but with some modifications, including:

1. The following adjoined DOE lands should be managed as a permanent National Wildlife Refuge: the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the McGee Ranch, DOE's entire Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, and the Columbia River islands. This will provide a large, continuous "crescent" of protected habitat lands surrounding central Hanford.
2. To ensure long-term protection for key native species and systems located across the Site (including central Hanford), there should be NO agriculture, commercial mining, or livestock grazing permitted.

To expedite a final decision on management of uncontaminated lands, DOE should issue separate decisions for the areas mentioned above (see 2A).

Please take a larger view of these matters and protect this rare site for generations to come before it is lost forever.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Skura