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May 18 1999
Grapeview WA
98546

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

Dear Mr. Ferns,

As the Columbia flows past the farm where my parents lived for thirty-five years and where I spent my entire girlhood, I am acutely concerned that everything possible should be done to protect the Hanford reach and adjoining DOE lands.

I am much opposed to putting it in private hands. Already, the splendid White Bluffs are showing signs of erosion from over-irrigating. They are a geologic rarity and a few river boats for tourists could I'm sure, bring as much revenue in to the state as the alternatives suggested.

Each one of the river Island is a spot of beauty and the area above the atomic works has many sandy beaches and some perfect swimming holes amid Barrett's Island. And the wildflowers are a treasure on the mainland. I hope all possible will be done to establish a National wildlife refuge.

Sincerely yours
Helen Wheeler Hartley

P.O Box 430 Grapeview WA 98546

MRS. HELEN HASTAY
PO BOX 43[illegible]
GRAPEVIEW, WA [illegible]

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