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Hon. JOHN V. TUNNEY,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TUNNEY: Of course I have long had an interest in ecological problems because of my own work in oceanography, and these for me have been intertwined with a concern for the proper utilization of natural resources. The intimate relationship was pinpointed for me when I served on a Committee of the National Academy some years back which, at the instigation of President Kennedy, took a comprehensive look at resources. During this work I became aware of two startling things: (1) that what we call waste itself is a potential resource, and (2) that our natural environment is a God given resource which no scientist or engineer can replace or reinvent if we destroy it. It was this kind of thinking that led to the tenor of the National Academy report, which I chaired, called "Waste Management and Control." This is a preamble to the comments that follow on your Bill H.R. 13211.

I was greatly cheered by the imaginative and comprehensive approach of H.R. 13211, the "Ecological Advisers Act of 1967." and yet, although you seem to focus with precision on the many environmental problems which the Federal Government should now address in a coordinated manner, your proposed solution—in my opinion—still suffers from excessive modesty! What we need is not only a Council of Ecological Advisers: we need a "National Resource Council" with stature comparable to the present National Security Council.

The National Security Council now provides the President with a mechanism for multi-agency coordination and follow-through in matters concerning national security and international relations. But the same kind of coordination vehicle, while often needed, is not now available in matters relating to the national welfare and domestic economic and environment planning. At one time we had a National Resources Planning Board. But, created under the National Security Act of 1947, it was related to the NSC structure and designed to address chiefly national-security questions and problems such as stockpiling, commodity (export) controls, etc. The NSRB was abolished in 1953 and its national-security functions were appropriately transferred to the then newly-created ODM, and successively absorbed into OCDM (1958) and the present OEP (1961). And I do not question that these particular responsibilities should not largely continue to be discharged there.

But the National Resource Council I envisage would help the President perform his total domestic responsibilities in an effective, and newly comprehensive, manner. The Council would deal with questions concerning natural resources, production economics, and uses and applications of these national resources. The new Council could op-