

**The original documents are located in Box 8, folder “Environmental Study Conference” of the Loen and Leppert Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 28, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF  
THRU: VERN LOEN  
FROM: CHARLIE LEPPERT *CL*  
SUBJECT: Environmental Coalition Formed in House

EPA informs me that on January 27, 1975, a group of House Members formed the Environmental Coalition. The initial group of approximately twelve (12) members have elected Dick Ottinger (NY) as the Chairman and included John Heinz (Pa.), Henry Reuss (Wis.), John Dingell (Mich), Gil Gude (Md.) and Larry Pressler (S.D.).

This constitutes a formal movement in the House to ally Members of the House having environmental interests and concerns. This is particularly appealing to House Members including a number of freshmen who feel that environmental issues are the wave of the future.

EPA states the formation of the coalition is a cause of concern to them and could have significant long run implications based on the membership make-up. Plans expressed by the group indicate expansion of the Membership to approximately 100 members with staffing.

EPA will furnish more details as soon as they are available.

cc: Bennett

January 29, 1975

Dear Bob:

Thank you for the timely and informative information on the formation of the Environmental Study Conference in the House of Representatives.

I appreciate very much your efforts and those of your staff in keeping on top of environmental matters and keeping us at the White House informed.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Charles Leppert, Jr.  
Special Assistant for  
Legislative Affairs

Mr. Robert Ryan  
Director  
Office of Legislation  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

CL:nb



*Leppert*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH  
THRU: MAX FRIEDERSDORF  
VERN LOEN  
FROM: CHARLIE LEPPERT  
SUBJECT: House Environmental Study Conference

The attached information relates to the formation of the Environmental Study Conference in the House on January 27, 1975.

The ESC will be a bi-partisan group of House Members seeking to provide accurate and complete information on matters of environmental significance and legislation. The conference has been formulated by a bi-partisan group of twelve (12) House Members, (Ottinger, Heinz, Dingell, Gude, Heckler, Pressler, Reuss, Steelman, Vanik, VanderJagt, Wirth, and Conte).

The next organizational meeting is planned for Monday, February 3, 1975, at 2 p. m. in Room 240 CHOB.

cc: Bennett

## ENVIRONMENTALISTS

BY BRIAN B. KING

Charlie Lippert - White House

WASHINGTON (AP) -- A BIPARTISAN PANEL OF 12 HOUSE MEMBERS TODAY ANNOUNCED THEIR FORMATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY CONFERENCE TO COLLECT AND DISTRIBUTE WITHIN THE CONGRESS EVALUATED INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND COSTS OF LEGISLATION.

"THIS IS NO TIME TO HAVE THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT SHRINK IN THE FACE OF THE ENERGY CRISIS," SAID REP. RICHARD OTTINGER, D-N.Y., PRINCIPAL ORGANIZER OF THE GROUP WITH REP. HENRY HEINZ, R-PA.

OTTINGER AND REP. GILBERT GUDE, R-MD., SAID THEY DID NOT ANTICIPATE THAT THE GROUP WOULD ISSUE ENDORSEMENTS OR REJECTIONS OF SPECIFIC BILLS. OTTINGER SAID THE GROUP WOULD "GATHER THE BEST INFORMATION, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL, AND THEN, I THINK, THE CONCLUSIONS WOULD SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES."

OTTINGER SAID THE QUESTIONS OF STAFFING, OFFICE SPACE AND FUNDS FOR THE GROUP HAVE NOT BEEN RESOLVED. SIMILAR GROUPS ARE OPERATED WITH STAFF AND MONEY FROM HOUSE MEMBERS' REGULAR OFFICE ALLOWANCES.

REP. KEN HECHLER, D-W.VA., A LEADING OPPONENT OF STRIP MINING, SAID THE GROUP'S SERVICES "WILL PREVENT THE KIND OF ECONOMIC BLACKMAIL THAT'S GOING ON IN THIS COUNTRY" WHEN AN INDUSTRY THAT WANTS TO CHANGE SITES SHUTS DOWN A PLANT AND BLAMES ANTIPOLLUTION STATUTES.

REP. JOHN DINGELL, D-MICH., SAID ENVIRONMENTALISTS WITHIN THE HOUSE HAVE LONG NEEDED A "REAL, INSIDE COORDINATING MECHANISM" TO DRAW ON FOR INFORMATION IN BATTLING FOR ANTIPOLLUTION MEASURES.

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HECHLER SAID THE GROUP'S MEMBERS ARE NOT "ANTI-ENERGY, BUT IT'S GOT TO BE CLEAN ENERGY" THAT DOES NOT ENDANGER PUBLIC HEALTH OR WATER AND AIR SUPPLIES.

REP. TIM WIRTH, D-COLO., A FRESHMAN, SAID THAT EVEN IN HIS MINERAL-RICH DISTRICT THE FACTS ARE INCOMPLETE ON VARIOUS FUEL-SUPPLY ISSUES AND ALTERNATIVES, AND THE ESC WOULD HELP NEW MEMBERS AND VETERANS SORT OUT THE "BEWILDERLY ARRAY" OF PROPOSALS AND ARGUMENTS.

OTHERS INITIALLY INVOLVED IN THE CONFERENCE -- WHICH HAS INVITED ALL REPRESENTATIVES TO A FEB. 3 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING -- ARE REPS. LARRY PRESSLER, R-S.D.; HENRY REUSS, D-WIS.; ALAN STEELMAN, R-TEX.; GUY VANDER JAGT, R-MICH., AND CHARLES VANIK, D-OHIO.

01-27-75 16:05EST



**Formation of House Environmental Study  
Conference**

**1/27/75**

**Patti Fride  
Steve Stockmayer**

**Bob Ryan**

**Twelve Members of the House have circulated a "Dear Colleague" inviting other Members to join a bi-partisan Environmental Study Conference.**

**The prime movers are Richard Ottinger (D-NY) and John Heinz (R-Pa). The letter was sent January 24th to be received in Members' first mail deliveries on Monday, January 27th. (Conce, while not a co-signer, is one of the organizers.)**

**Signatories participated in a news conference at 11 a.m. today at which they explained the purpose of the Conference, as detailed in the attached hand-out.**

**The organizers stressed that this is to be a bi-partisan group which will seek to provide accurate and complete information to all interested Members. It will not be taking positions, on environmental issues, but will be a clearinghouse. (Staff members contrasted the good information available on strip mining bills as opposed to the misinformation on clean air which was abroad during last year's legislative battles.)**

**During questions and answers from media (few media representatives attended) Members stressed the following points:**

**..Energy and a clean environment are not incompatible; we must enlarge energy supplies while safeguarding the environment.**

**..In the current climate environmental issues are likely to be a the "fall guy" for economic and energy problems.**

**..Such a study conference will transcend committee jurisdictions, thus giving Members broader information than would be available from committee staffs.**

**..Details as to office space, staff, financing are yet to be worked out (partially dependent upon interest of Members), but, basically, it is expected that Members will share their clerk-hire allowances for staff.**

**..The organization meeting will be Monday, February 3rd, at 2 p.m.**

**All co-signers except Vander Jagt and Prossler participated in the news conference.**

**Attachments (2)**





# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

January 24, 1975

Dear Colleague:

We are proposing to start an Environmental Study Conference, the tentative purposes of which are:

1. To give all Members interested in environmental legislation a vehicle for furthering their environmental goals.
2. To collect information about environmental problems and solutions, from knowledgeable institutions and organizations.
3. To follow the status of environmental legislation for interested Members.
4. To alert Members when environmentally significant legislation is under consideration by Congressional Committees and when such bills come to the floor of the House.
5. To serve as a two-way clearinghouse between Members and scientists, and Members and environmental organizations, in one direction giving information on Congressional activities; in the other obtaining resource information for Members in connection with legislation and hearings.
6. To serve as a two-way clearinghouse between Members and environmental lawyers, obtaining legal advice on environmental law and enforcement for Members and obtaining information for lawyers.
7. Through Environmental Study Conference member task forces investigating the operation of environmental laws and environmental threats that may be susceptible to legislative remedy, and provide a vehicle for Members to force public attention on environmental problems and solutions.

It is contemplated that the ESC will have a small staff paid for out of Members' staff allowances and will seek office space in the House office building complex.



2.

It is further contemplated that ESC ~~will~~ include any interested Members of either party.

Environmental Study Conference will ~~make~~ positions, but will endeavor to inform Members of issues, environmental consequences, agreements that can be expected on all ~~side~~ costs of legislative vs. costs of lack of legislation, and all ~~other~~ pertinent information.

Environmental Study Conference will ~~work~~ closely with environmental organizations and interested scientific groups. The proposal has been discussed with all the ~~the~~ environmental organizations and has their general approval.

If you are interested in joining ESC, ~~please~~ notify Ms. Joan Shorey in Congressman Ottinger's office, ~~Extension~~ 56506, by noon on Wednesday, January 29, if at all possible.

An organizational meeting is planned ~~Monday~~ Monday, February 3, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 240, Cannon House Office Building. Please let Ms. Shorey know if you or a staff aide ~~will~~ attend.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Richard Ottinger  
Richard L. Ottinger

John D. Dingell  
John D. Dingell

Ken Hechler  
Ken Hechler

Henry S. Reuss  
Henry S. Reuss

Charles A. Vanik  
Charles A. Vanik

Timothy E. Wirth  
Timothy E. Wirth

Albert Gude  
Albert Gude

John Heinz III  
John Heinz III

Ray Pressler  
Ray Pressler

Sam Steelman  
Sam Steelman

Byron J. Jago  
Byron J. Jago





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, January 27, 1975

HON. RICHARD L. OTTINGER  
Member of Congress  
240 Cannon H.O.B.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225 6506  
Contact:

Nancy Mathews

HON. H. JOHN HEINZ III  
Member of Congress  
324 Cannon H.O.B.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225 2135  
Contact:

Jerry Kline

February 3 organized  
meeting

(10) ~~Handled~~ 12  
A bi-partisan group of 11 Congressmen today announced the formation of an Environmental Study Conference in the House of Representatives. Reps. John Dingell (D-Mich.), Gilbert Gude (R-Md.), Ken Hechler (D-W.Va.), H. John Heinz (R-Pa.), Richard L. Ottinger (D-N.Y.), Larry Pressler (R-S.D.), Henry Reuss (D-Wisc.), Alan Steelman (R-Texas), Guy Vander Jagt (R-Mich.), Charles Vanik (D-Ohio) and Tim Wirth (D-Colo.) joined together at a press conference today to discuss the reasons for the formation of the ESC and the goals they hope to accomplish by it. Coate

The ESC, says its sponsors, would provide a vehicle for the collection and dissemination of environmental information for Members of the House, especially as it relates to Congressional and legislative business. Among the purposes of the Conference would be to:



--provide members interested in the environment with a vehicle for furthering their legislative goals.

--seek information about the environment from sources outside the Congress for the use of ESC members.

--follow closely the status of environmentally-significant legislation, and to alert ESC members when these bills are under consideration in committee or on the House floor.

--serve as a two-way clearinghouse between ESC members and informed outside sources, by gathering information for ESC members and by providing outsiders information on Congressional activities.

--seek information on environmental laws for ESC members, and to investigate their operation and enforcement.

--set up task forces within the ESC for particular subject areas, especially with regard to environmental threats that may be susceptible to legislative remedy.

--provide a vehicle for ESC members to focus public attention on environmental problems and solutions.

These are just a few of the possible services, said the 11 Congressmen, to be provided by the Environmental Study Conference. They said they hoped to have a small staff and some

(more)

## P.2 - ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY CONFERENCE

office space in the near future to serve the ESC.

While the ESC will not itself take positions, according to the sponsors, it will endeavor to inform its members on various issues, on environmental consequences of proposed legislation, on the costs of proposed legislation and on the costs of failing to enact such legislation.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH

THRU:

MAX FRIEDERSDORF *ML-6*

✓ VERN LOEN *VL*

FROM:

CHARLIE LEPPERT *CL*

SUBJECT:

House Environmental Study Conference

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1125  
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House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

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Richard L. Ottinger

*John D. Dingell*  
John D. Dingell

*Ken Hechler*  
Ken Hechler

*Henry S. Reuss*  
Henry S. Reuss

*Charles A. Vanik*  
Charles A. Vanik

*Timothy E. Wirth*  
Timothy E. Wirth

*Robert Gude*  
Robert Gude

*John Heinz III*  
John Heinz III

*Barry Pressler*  
Barry Pressler

*Sam Steelman*  
Sam Steelman

*Byron Jagt*  
Byron Jagt





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, January 27, 1975

HON. RICHARD L. OTTINGER  
Member of Congress  
240 Cannon H.O.B.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225 6506  
Contact:

Nancy Mathews

HON. H. JOHN HEINZ III  
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324 Cannon H.O.B.  
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Identical letters sent to Rep. Ottinger, Heinz, Dingell, Gude, Heckler,  
Pressler, Reuss, Steelman, Vanik, VanderJagt, Wirth and Conte.

February 3, 1975

Dear Mr. Ottinger:

I have read with interest the announcement  
of the formation of the Environmental  
Study Conference in the House of Representa-  
tives.

If I may be of assistance to you or the  
Conference staff once you have completed  
your organization please call upon me when  
necessary.

Sincerely,

Charles Leppert, Jr.  
Special Assistant for  
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Richard L. Ottinger  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515



Draft of letter to members of Environmental  
Study Conference

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 29, 1975

Dear

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If I may be of assistance to you or the Con-  
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Sincerely,

Charles Leppert, Jr.  
Special Assistant for  
Legislative Affairs

Honorable  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Meta: Is this OK or should it  
await more formal organization of  
the ESC? I'm inclined to get us on  
the ground floor & go forward with the  
letters to the Congress. Also please  
make a copy of this ~~letter~~ memo for Sue.

Charlie -  
Clear with Max or Vern. - Presidential?  
Letter would have to be changed a little.



Suzanne  
Jordan

Meta

Go ahead with  
letter to the organizers

Chas

Copy





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date 2-10-75

TO: Charlie Leppert

FROM: VERN C. LOEN *✓*

Please Handle *✓* \_\_\_\_\_

For Your Information \_\_\_\_\_

Per Our Conversation \_\_\_\_\_

Other: *This seems to fall  
in your area —*

*Vern*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 31, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHARLIE LEPPERT

THRU: MAX FRIEDERSDORF

FROM: JACK MARSH *Jack*

I noted with interest the formation of the House Environment Study Conference.

This is something that should be followed closely, particularly to see what recommendations they come up with in reference to legislation. It appears to me that VanderJagt might be our best contact in the group.

---

*P.B. do — may*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 11, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH

THRU:

MAX FRIEDERSDORF  
VERN LOEN VL

FROM:

CHARLES LEPPERT, JR. *Ch.*

SUBJECT:

House Environmental Study Conference

On February 3, I sent a letter to each of the twelve organizing members of the House Environmental Study Group offering my assistance.

An organizational meeting of the group was held on February 3 but not well attended. A follow up meeting is planned. I shall follow closely the organization and its recommendations as requested. In addition to VanderJagt I know personally five of the other organizing members.

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 4, 1975

Mr. Charles Leppert, Jr.  
Special Assistant for  
Legislative Affairs  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Charlie:

Thank you for your recent note concerning the recent Environmental Study Conference in the House. I'll be pleased to keep in touch with you as the activities of the organization proceed.

Sincerely,



Guy Vander Jagt  
Member of Congress

GVJ/d1

*I read being with mod  
you last week. I read you!  
my TV appearances with you!  
& still had time to spare.*

