

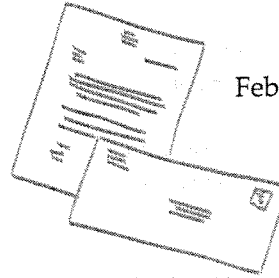
Example

AUDUBON CONSERVATION TEAM

bill), send a thank you note. It will be a refreshing change to most letters they receive.

Following are a couple of sample letters. Please do not feel confined by their styles; the most effective style is to use your own words and experiences.

The Honorable John Q. Taxdollars
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510



February 26, 1997

Dear Senator Taxdollars,

I live near a wonderful creek and marsh in Oregon City. Thanks to current federal and state wetlands laws, I enjoy watching the wildlife, such as marsh hawks, red-wing blackbirds and Pacific tree frogs. I also enjoy watching the children who excitedly explore the area. Living near this beautiful place has increased the value of my property and enriched my family's lives.

In addition to providing fish and wildlife habitat, the marsh controls storm water runoff in the area, reduces sedimentation in the creek, and aids in improving the quality of the water by removing pollutants which reduces the cost for water treatment facilities. Around the nation, streams and their adjacent wetlands perform these vital functions, support the sports fishing industry and other recreational opportunities, and contribute to our drinking water supply. These many reasons are why it is critical to protect wetlands, streams and other natural resources by keeping or improving our laws, not eliminating them.

I strongly urge you to vote against Senate Bill 851, the Wetlands Reform Act of 1997. I am very concerned about this bill which is sponsored by Senators Johnston and Faircloth. This bill would reduce or eliminate most wetlands from protection by the federal government. Senate Bill 851 alters the definition of wetlands which would wipe out 50 -75% of existing wetlands. As the bill provides numerous loopholes for special interests, millions more acres of wetlands would be exempt from regulations and not protected.

Scientists have determined that we have destroyed or altered approximately 50% of the wetlands in the United States. We need clean water to sustain our lives. It is very important that you oppose Senate Bill 851. I look forward to a reply regarding your position and vote on this issue.

Sincerely,

Juli Speakout
1000 Cleanwater Lane
Oregon City, Oregon 97321
503-600-001