



SPORT FISHING INSTITUTE

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September 20, 1982

The Honorable Robert Dole
2213 DSOB
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Dole:

Fifty-five million Americans participate in recreational fishing each year, providing fresh-caught wholesome fish for consumption and enjoying a healthful, outdoor experience with family and friends. This most popular outdoor activity (858 million days of fishing in 1980) and the \$17 billion per year industry that provides the goods and services demanded by the angling public, depend entirely upon the ability of the nation's waterways to support abundant, healthy fish populations.

This capability is being jeopardized over wide sections of this country and Canada by deposition of airborne contaminants, not the least of which is acid precipitation. The injection of huge amounts of sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere by industry, and nitrogen oxide from automobile and truck exhausts, have been identified as major causative agents for the eventual acid contamination of hundreds of lakes in the United States and Canada.

On August 19th, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee reported out revisions to the Clean Air Act. Although not perfect, the bill is a reasonable compromise vehicle between environmental protection and industry positions. This bill invests EPA with the authority to control acid rain and hazardous air pollutants.

On behalf of the 55 million Americans that highly value their fishing privileges and their rights to uncontaminated, healthy aquatic resources, and on behalf of the important recreational fishing industry, we ask that you support the Environment and Public Works Committee Clean Air Act revisions bill when it comes before the full Senate for deliberation.

Sincerely,

Norville S. Prosser
Executive Secretary

The National Non-Profit Fish Conservation Organization