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Judith S. Benedict

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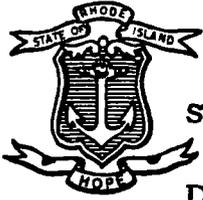
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APR 25 1990



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Department of Environmental Management
DIVISION OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
83 Park Street
Providence, R.I. 02903 - 1037

Letter 54576

April 16, 1990

Representative Peter H. Kostmayer
House of Representatives
123 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20009

RE: H.R. 3963 - The Great American Landscape Act of 1990

Dear Representative Kostmayer:

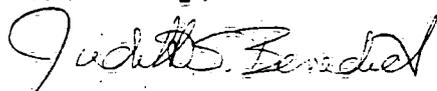
I have followed the series of hearings you have held on America's landscapes and open spaces with great interest and was very pleased to see that you have introduced legislation to recognize and preserve our country's important landscapes. Although we have made significant strides in preserving natural and historic resources through an array of public and private programs, efforts to date to deal with the landscape as a whole have been much more limited. H.R. 3963 is the first step in acknowledging at the federal level that landscapes combine natural, historic, scenic, and cultural values that we are in danger of losing as areas are developed without regard for those values.

In Rhode Island we have already taken the first step - a statewide landscape inventory has been completed that identifies 64 areas as the most distinctive scenic landscapes in the state, and another 66 as noteworthy. The inventory will be used at the state level to guide efforts of land acquisition, highway improvements, and other state actions that could affect the scenic areas. At the local level, the inventory will be used as a tool in preparation of municipal comprehensive plans, required by law to be completed by December 1990.

Our next tasks in Rhode Island are to make use of the statewide inventory more effective in preserving landscapes and to prepare

comprehensive landscape plans for specific areas identified in the inventory. I believe your Great American Landscapes Act could be of great benefit in assisting us to continue working to preserve our endangered landscapes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith S. Benedict".

Judith S. Benedict
Chief

JSB:laf

cc: Robert Bendick
Mal Grant
Elena Pascarella