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To: ceq_nepa@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: NEPA

CQ225

08/30/02 12:23 PM

Dear Sir or Ma'am;

I am quite concerned about the ramifications of repealing the National Environmental Policy Act. I realize the law requires substantial study and reporting which can delay business projects and I sympathize with the developers and foresters who must deal with all the 'red tape.' However, there is a bigger issue involved than current profits and ease of development. We have seen the terrible damage humans have imposed on the Earth in the past. Globally, we struggle to contain global warming, the hole in the ozone layer, and numerous other dangers. The Earth does not belong to us; we belong to it. Yes, that is a cliché, but it is also true. We cannot survive without the Earth, but it could survive without us. It is essential for our survival that we think carefully before undertaking projects that may permanently change the eco system. One fish or owl or factory may not seem very important, but when we look at the big picture (the whales dying in Puget Sound, the floods in Asia and Europe, the drought in much of our own nation) the domino effect becomes clear; the decisions we make today will effect tomorrow and could well determine whether our grandchildren have clean air to breath and water to drink.

Given that NEPA was signed in 1970, I am sure there is room for updating the policies. Updating, so long as we retain thorough impact study requirements, is reasonable and just. Repealing the law, or sweeping changes would undoubtedly satisfy industry, but at what cost? I am not willing to sacrifice my child's future for the ease of the logging industry today.

Thank you,
Annika Abel