

September 12, 2001

Bob Durand
Secretary of Environmental Affairs
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
251 Causeway Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114-2119

Dear Secretary Durand,

I am writing to reiterate my interest and willingness to assist in developing an alternative plan for the restoration of Correllus State Forest to that presented by DEM for the management of this important area.

I am extremely impressed by your aggressive commitment to the environment and to land protection in the Commonwealth. However, I remain opposed to any disturbance of soils and native vegetation on Correllus and feel that you have been misinformed and misled in making the decision to proceed with the emergency activity. There are clear alternatives to the bulldozing and harrowing that is currently slated for the area; these include alternatives that can efficiently achieve the desired outcomes of fuel reduction and landscape and species protection. There are also many excellent opportunities for following on that initial activity with a comprehensive restoration of the entire landscape.

Yesterday's editorial in the Vineyard Gazette calls for a process of planning and public discussion. I fear that your broader and quite progressive environmental agenda is placed in jeopardy by ignoring this sound advice and through the continued reliance on personnel and agencies that are pursuing agendas with stubborn single mindedness and a lack of good scientific and historical insight.

If there is anyway in which I, or my staff can assist with this issue, or indeed any conservation project in the Commonwealth, I would be most pleased to apply all of our energies to join and support you in these activities.

With very best wishes.

Sincerely,

David R. Foster
Director