



August 17, 2009

«FormalName»
«CapStreet1»
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Dear «Salutation»:

Negative Population Growth has been a leader in the fight for a sustainable U.S. population for almost 40 years and we have spent much of our time and energy keeping you and other elected leaders up-to-date on America's growing population crisis.

Today, we very much need your help.

We are looking to you, and other forward-looking legislators like you, to take the lead to introduce a bill in the U.S. Senate to create a U.S. Commission on Population Growth.

The role of this Commission would be very simple and direct – to gather critical information and provide much needed direction to the White House, Congress and other national policymakers in order to thoroughly address the myriad issues affected by population growth.

Creating and introducing a bill to bring forth a U.S. Commission on Population Growth will actually not be a very challenging or time-consuming task and we sincerely hope you will agree to work with us in helping to make this long-overdue legislation a reality.

We hope to essentially update Public Law 91-213, the legislation introduced and passed in the 91st Congress – almost 40 years ago (see text enclosed). It was then that Congress established the “Commission on Population Growth and the American Future.”

Shortly after this landmark legislation was enacted by Congress, President Nixon named David Rockefeller, one of America's most esteemed citizens, to head up the Commission and he proceeded to work with some of the best and brightest minds in the nation to produce an invaluable report.

Sadly, the Rockefeller Commission Report, as insightful, illustrative and far-reaching as it was, became embroiled in the political controversies of the day and got lost in the whirlwind of the final years of the Nixon presidency. The White House never gave it the full-backing necessary for it to make a major impact.

Thankfully, changes in societal norms over the last four decades, along with far-sighted policymakers in Congress and various agencies, helped to advance and adopt many of its recommendations.

Yet in the end, many of the Rockefeller Commission's sensible ideas and goals never came to fruition. And the United States lost a great opportunity to set forth a national population policy which perhaps could have forestalled – or at least greatly lessened – so many of today's economic, social and environmental problems.

The important fact however, is that Congress had the foresight back then to make a Population Commission a reality. Today we must create a new one!

The problems created by population growth simply cannot be ignored any longer. If we are intent on leaving future generations with a decent quality of life it is crucial that our nation take action now to make sure U.S. population is stabilized at a sustainable level.

At the time the Rockefeller Commission was created in 1970, America's population stood at 203 million people. Today it's 307 million. The Pew Research Center predicts that, if nothing is done to rein it in and get it under control, we will have 450 million people by 2050 – just 41 years from now!

Right now, there is no single entity in the federal government that is focused on the critical question as to how America can cope with such huge numbers of people. There will definitely be dangerous and costly consequences if we continue to ignore this problem too long. We very much need a U.S. Commission on Population Growth to address this issue.

More important, we need a Commission that can make the critical recommendations to halt and possibly even reverse today's skyrocketing population numbers to ensure that our nation is not overwhelmed and ruined by a population crisis that gets totally out of hand.

We have included with this letter both a copy of Public Law 91-213 that passed the 91st Congress and established the Commission on Population Growth and the American Future in 1970 as well as a "Compilation of Recommendations" excerpted from the final Rockefeller Commission Report presented to the nation in 1972. I urge you and your staff to review them to see how a focused study on population issues by some of the brightest minds in the nation is so necessary to set the stage for how we as a nation can address current population-related problems and issues that will seriously impact America in the 21st Century.

As I mentioned earlier, society has greatly changed in the 40 years since the Rockefeller Commission stated its broad view of population-related issues. Many of those recommendations were quite controversial at the time but are now a common part of American life.

Today, it is essential that we look to the future with a similar perspective as to how we can create a better quality of life for future generations.

«Salutation», it is impossible to find an issue today that is not directly related to our population growth. Millions of citizens across America already recognize population growth as a threat to our future quality of life and look to you and other leaders to make sure it is no longer ignored.

Indeed, our nation's success in addressing today's problems related to the economy, health care, energy, global warming, Social Security, transportation, infrastructure, and water needs (to name just a few), hinge directly on our ability to plan for achieving a sustainable population size.

Is America ready to absorb another 140 million people in just four decades? What are the major steps we can take now to ensure we don't have to confront such daunting numbers? These are questions that can and must be asked before it is too late.

We fully recognize that there are countless issues pending before the U.S. Senate, but we hope you agree that the agenda should also include this important legislation. Please tell us today that you will take the lead in sponsoring House legislation to create a new U.S. Commission on Population Growth. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Craig Lewis
Executive Vice President

P.S. We will be pleased to work with you or your staff in drafting legislation to create a U.S. Commission on Population Growth. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 703-370-9510. We look forward to hearing from you.