

[Senator/Representative Name]

[Address]

[City, State, Zip Code]

[Date]

Re: Please Co-Sponsor the No Child Left Inside Act of 2009

Dear [Decision Maker],

**I am writing to urge you to co-sponsor the No Child Left Inside Act of 2009 (H.R.2054; S.866).** The No Child Left Inside Act of 2009 addresses critical environmental challenges by strengthening and expanding environmental education in America's classrooms.

The No Child Left Inside Act of 2007 amends the No Child Left Behind law (NCLB) in the following ways:

- Provides federal funding to states to train teachers in environmental education and to operate model environmental education programs, which include outdoor learning.
- Provides funding to states that create environmental literacy plans to ensure that high school graduates are environmentally literate.
- Provides funding through an environmental education grant program to build state and national capacity.

The need for both environmental education and an environmentally literate citizenry is growing daily. Increasing habitat degradation, pollution of water, air, and soil, and over use of natural resources are all increasing problems which greatly affect Nebraskan's health and our quality of life. Each of these environmental challenges are multifaceted and difficult to solve; addressing these issues will require a Nebraskans to be informed and environmentally literate – and willing to translate its knowledge into action.

In addition, environmental education provides Nebraska's students with the learning atmosphere they need. Research has shown that incorporating environmental education into the classroom curriculum can greatly increase test scores, and allow students to make interdisciplinary connections needed to meet challenges of the future. Additionally, the mental and physical health of students is positively affected when students are allowed to bond with nature. Allowing students to learn while being in the natural world helps reduce stress levels, encourage greater physical health, and promotes greater creativity.

Regardless of what career Nebraska's student pursues, they will have the need for critical thinking skills, effective decision making experiences, questioning and analyzing abilities, and a sense of personal and civic responsibility – all skills taught with environmental education. In addition, Nebraska's need for citizens with the knowledge, skills, and desires to actively solve our environmental issues is increasing daily.

**The No Child Left Inside Act of 2009 will go a long way toward advancing environmental education in Nebraska. Please sign-on as a co-sponsor of this vital legislation (H.R.2054; S.866).** I look forward to hearing from you about your support of this important legislation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State ZIP]