



February 21, 2003

The Honorable Richard Cheney
President of the Senate
Washington, DC 20510-0010

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed is a draft bill entitled the "Marine Mammal Protection Act Amendments of 2003". Also enclosed is a section-by-section analysis of the proposed bill.

The purpose of this draft legislation is to authorize appropriations for the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972 (U.S.C. § 1361 *et seq.*) through Fiscal Year 2007, to amend the MMPA to expand the authority of management agreements with Alaska Native Organizations, and to make technical and clarifying amendments to the MMPA. Enactment of this proposed legislation would enhance conservation of marine mammals, strengthen the Federal Government's relations with Alaska Natives, streamline implementation of the MMPA, and make efficient use of Administration resources consistent with the President's budget.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this proposal and that its enactment would be in accord with the program of the President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Theodore W. Kassinger", is written in dark ink.

Theodore W. Kassinger

Enclosures

Identical Letters Sent to:

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Frist
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom DeLay
House Majority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thomas A. Daschle
Senate Minority Leader
President of the Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Pombo
Chairman, Committee on Resources
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6201

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Resources
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John McCain
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6125

The Honorable Ernest F. Hollings
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Commerce, Science
And Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6125