

16 June 1977

The Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr.
House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Lujan:

Thank you for your reply of May 5 to my letter urging support of President Carter's energy program.

I agree with your saying that other energy sources such as solar, geothermal, substitutes for gasoline, and to a limited extent nuclear should be pursued with all diligence.

But I do not believe, as you seem to, that cheap fossil fuel will ever again be available. All the evidence and all the studies on world resources of oil and natural gas indicate that they will be approaching exhaustion by the end of the century; that to believe otherwise is wishful thinking. There is no denying that oil exploration is ever more costly and less productive. So to expect that human ingenuity will somehow be able to circumvent the imperative of finite resources is unrealistic.

Every Congressman gives lip-service to the President's energy program except as it effects his own district.

Another issue that concerns me is the reinstatement in the public works bill by the House of Representatives of the 19 water projects recommended for deletion by President Carter. This action was taken for parochial political considerations; it was a surrender to special interests which stood to benefit financially and disregarded the wider national interest. The cost/benefit ratios of many of these projects was too high for their justification. Moreover, it seems, they may have been proposed in the first place to keep the Corp of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation in business. Considering the total number of on-going water projects, in the order of 500, the deletion of 19 does not appear unreasonable.

In case you have not seen the editorial on this subject by John B. Oakes in the New York Times I am enclosing a copy which I hope you will read.

Yours respectfully,