



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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June 26, 2007

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond
United States Senate
274 Russell Senate Office Building
1st & C Streets, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Kit,

I have recently been advised of the proposal endorsed by the Missouri Wilderness Coalition, the Missouri Conservation Federation, Missouri Parks Association, and other key environmental groups to protect seven areas in our State under the provisions of the Wilderness Act. I strongly support this proposal and it is my hope that you will be able to co-sponsor and lead our Missouri Delegation in this effort in Congress.

Protecting wilderness fulfills a number of important conservation concerns. They have always served as benchmark or reference sites against which to measure man-made changes to the landscape. Many of these seven areas are also keystone components of old growth forest in several important Bird Areas that are recognized by Audubon chapters across Missouri.

These seven areas are relatively modest in total acreage. As I am given to understand, each of these areas dates back to the days of your own governorship and owe their early protection in part to your intercession. For the past 20 years, the USFS called these seven Missouri areas "sensitive areas" and protected their wilderness qualities. Unfortunately, as the new plan for the Mark Twain National Forest has unfolded, it has become clear that such a designation does not offer adequate protection for these seven areas. Now, as Missouri's Senator, I feel your help once again could be critical to saving their wilderness values.

Thanks very much for considering this possibility: it seems to me that these areas represent a truly important legacy for Missourians in the future, and I hope that you will agree to help secure them still better than is the case now.

With all the best to you and many thanks, I am

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. H. Raven".

Peter H. Raven
President