From: Joy Easley [

Sent: Wednesday, August 04, 2004 8:26 PM

To: ADMIN-S&E

Subject: Excluding public from environmental review

To Whom It May Concern:

I am opposed to the Bush administration's new directive granting numerous government agencies broad exemptions from following federal environmental regulations, if they invoke reasons of national security. Government agencies should be held accountable for their actions, especially when it affects the health and well-being of the American people. The directive would also allow the degradation of public resources -- such as the building of new roads through national forests for use by the Border Patrol -- with no input from the public whatsoever; these lands belong to the American people, not our government, and we should have a say in what is done with them. And while these agencies would still have to conduct environmental reviews before taking action, those reviews would not be subject to public scrutiny or public comment---Are we simply to expect these agencies to act honorably, with no public scrutiny to hold them accountable? The American people are no longer that naive. And most of all, the fact that these exclusions also allow the agencies to carry out their actions in secret, without the knowledge of the public, even when those actions have serious implications for public safety, is unpardonable.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Judah Joy Easley