

Honorable Mention, 2012 Dear George Washington Contest
Zachary Miles Hagen-Smith, Fifth Grade
Toluca Lake Elementary School

1776 Patriot Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

November 20, 1789

Dear President Washington,

I'm a young lad named Zachary Miles Hagen-Smith. I consider myself to be a dedicated student of Nature. I observe creatures in their natural states and surroundings. In so doing, I have become concerned about how the wilderness will be treated in our new nation

I remember that my granddad told me how terribly the Tories treated the land. Fancy the British! They just wanted to take the resources and beauty from our land to line their pockets with riches. They used to chop too many trees, hunt too many animals, put their waste in our majestic rivers, and dig up our fertile ground looking for gold. I hope now that your honor realizes that our wee country's nature is very fragile. We must learn from the mistakes of those blasted Redcoats.

I've also been wondering how your honor will be treating the natural people of America. By that, I refer to the Indians. Will their fate be that of the African slaves? I know the British made a barrier between the Indians and us. Now that your honor will be in charge, ye have the power to destroy the barrier just as ye did those illegal taxes. But, if your honor decides to take the barrier away, I fear that many people would cross into the wilderness and cause hostilities with the Indians. Likewise, what if the Indians attack us in revenge? Much blood has already stained our land in the war for our liberty. Would it not now be better to leave the Indians alone in nature?

I am grateful that your honor takes this note seriously and puts its ideas into consideration of the Future of our fine country.

Your Honorable Citizen,

Zachary Miles Hagen-Smith