COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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March 21, 2003

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senator
SR-361A Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1702

Dear Senator McConnell:

The Kentucky Environmental Commission (EQC) is seeking the inclusion of a $5 million land purchase program for the Daniel Boone National Forest (DBNF) to be included in the fiscal year 2004 budget. The U. S. Forest Service indicates there are some 39,200 acres of priority tracts of land that have been targeted for purchase for $21 million.

It is my understanding that in the past funding has been included to purchase unique natural areas in the Daniel Boone National Forest. A $5 million grant will allow DBNF to purchase some of these priority sites, including land along the Rockcastle River and in the Red River Gorge, often called the "Grand Canyon of the East".

I strongly support the EQC request and ask for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Patton

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