

Heather Downs
Constituent Services Representative
Lamar Alexander
United States Senator, Tennessee
800 Market Street
Knoxville, TN. 37902

Dear Ms Downs

Thanks for listening to us expound on the reasons Senator Alexander should support the National Environmental Research Park legislation (HR 2729).
This legislation will provide national recognition for seven Research Parks including Oak Ridge National Environmental Research Park (ORNERP).

The ORERP will comprise 20,000 acres of undistributed land that has been protected by security fences since 1942. This land contains the most desirable and irreplaceable 67 year ecological history of any land mass in the Ridge and Valley. Studies are ongoing into climate change, and when the ORNERP is approved, long term studies can be expanded because the future disposition of the land will be defined.

Also educational programs can be expanded since the legislation explicitly directs the Secretary of Energy to support education and outreach programs. The legislation also specifies that a DOE research director will be assigned to coordinate research on all seven parks, which is a very positive step and is badly needed.

This legislation also provides badly needed funds (\$5 million per year for each park) to fund these programs. This is a positive step since the existing Oak Ridge Environmental Research Park does not have a permanent budget.

Senator Alexander is a strong supporter of education and research and this bill contains both of these components.

We all thank you again for your time.

Frank Hensley	Advocates For the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR)
Sandra Goss	Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP)
Bill Johnston	Advocates For the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR)
Wolf Naegeli	Foundation for Global Sustainability (FGS)
Susan Gawareki	Department Of Energy Local Oversight Committee (LOC)