

112 Newcrest Lane  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
March 20, 2004

Those Listed (AFORR Board)

Dear AFORR Board Member:

I am writing this letter to each of individually because I feel strongly that AFORR as an organization has reached a critical crossroads. And, as a result, I feel the need, at this crucial time, to get down on my knees and beg. I also sense that it is time for every member of our board to do some serious soul-searching on their own.

As you know, we are on the verge of completing some major accomplishments—or letting them fall by the wayside. The greatest pending accomplishment is the establishment of a 3,000-acre conservation/recreation area on the western end of the reservation. However, I fear this will never happen without a major campaign on our part—both locally and in Nashville—to push for it, starting very soon.

We are all also deeply concerned about the future of Three Bends and of various former (and perhaps some future) State Natural Areas. Finally, we may soon choose to pressure DOE and Zach Wamp by bringing a lawsuit that challenges the recent FONSI that gave ED-1 to CROET. This includes Development Area 4 and its access road that we feel is ecologically significant and should not be part of Horizon Center.

In the midst of all these challenges, and at perhaps the most important time in the short history of our organization, we are leaderless and depleted with regard to rank-and-file workers. As you know, I stepped down as president months ago when Gail agreed to fill my shoes in that capacity. When Gail left for Wyoming around the first of January, I agreed to temporarily substitute as “acting president.” Now, 3 months later, Gail has officially resigned, and I am doing the same as of this letter (at least as “acting president”).

My original reasons for resigning months ago have, believe it or not, actually multiplied. I am currently working a full time job (as is my wife), trying to sell my house and many of our lifelong

possessions; trying to maintain two houses in two countries including keeping up with renters in Costa Rica; in the process of negotiating a purchase of additional land in CR to protect our investment there; trying to figure out how we can transfer the rest of our belongings, a cat, and a dog from Oak Ridge to the remote mountains of that country while negotiating a byzantine set of regulations; trying to establish residency in that country; dealing with a son who has moved back into our home; etc., etc. I could bore you by going on but will stop here.

To make a long story short, I and my wife are completely overwhelmed. My therapist and my wife both insist that I relinquish my leadership role in AFORR. And I agree with them that I must do so if we are to survive this year. (Not to mention the fact that I am in no position to do a decent job of leading our group.)

In addition to my own personal problems, all of you know in your hearts that it is time to SERIOUSLY begin a transition in AFORR. I will be gone from Oak Ridge in just 6 months, anyway.

In my opinion, it is time for each one of you to do some soul-searching and hopefully to step forward and assume a greater amount of responsibility, to make sure that AFORR follows through on the great work that we have begun over the past five years. Unless you agree to step forward, all our work of fighting ED-3, threatening to sue DOE, exposing the \$64-dollar-an-acre sale, working with Zach Wamp and pursuing the Focus Group and its recommendations for 12 months, getting the agreement-in-principal between the state and DOE for the 3,000 acres, getting community and DOE recognition, etc., etc. will all go down the drain, in my opinion.

The time has come for each of you to decide if you really want AFORR to continue or to dissolve.

Should AFORR continue to stand up to the “forces of evil,” to the Lawrence Young’s, Robert Brown’s, Dan Wilkin’s, and Pet Craven’s? Or should we allow them to declare victory, having waited us out patiently and worn us down? Without each of you stepping forward, I am convinced AFORR will die and they will have won. Development will then move forward at a slow but steady pace across much of the remaining reservation.

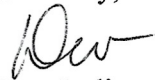
I beg you not to let this happen! But someone must seize the reins. Such a leader need only accomplish four things in my opinion: (1) stay on top of what the main issues and conflicts are and keep the group focused on addressing them; (2) call and preside over meetings when they are needed; (3) make sure that the critical work is delegated to the right people; and (4) make sure that commitments to this work are met on schedule.

The leader need do little more. Of course, the remaining members—those on the board and those not—need to step forward, volunteer for responsibilities, and remain diligent to see tasks to completion. I feel I must put out a personal plea to Virginia Dale and Bill Schramm to consider taking on such a leadership role. I think either of you could pull this off without excessive stress or an unbearable time commitment because you have the extremely able help of the remainder of the board. In particular, I refer to our other 4 officers, Ellen Smith, Frank Hensley, Jo Ann Thompson and myself (I remain “past president” for another 6 months anyway). These people have proven themselves as dedicated and persistent workhorses.

But we must also appeal to our remaining board members—Jim, Lorene, and Wolf—as well as to any potential new board members (Bill Johnston, the Cushmans, Larry Pounds, Patrice Cole, and others). We must also enlist our willing non-board members to get more involved. And we must appeal to TCWP for their help in this time of need. And we must become more organized—with carefully assigned duties to individuals and committees. I myself am prepared to serve as a ‘rank-and-file’ board member until the end of summer—just not as acting president.

PLEASE DO NOT LET AFORR DIE!

Sincerely,



Dev Joslin

TO: Virginia Dale  
Jim Evans  
Frank Hensley  
Wolf Naegeli  
Lorene Sigal  
Bill Schramm  
Ellen Smith  
Gail Stakes  
Jo Ann Thompson

Goal - Put ~~max~~ ORR land in hands of bureaucracy whose mission  
emphasizes land use for conservation. No for contiguous blocks  
of land.

3000 Ac. cons area consummate agreement  
establish nature center patterned on Stans model

Three Bands shoreline development, Melton Hill unique in lack of  
dev. along entire shoreline. Conservation lands  
must include lands other than rocky, steep  
ridge lines

Dev. Area 4 of ED-1 what can we offer in trade?

ED 3

Natural Areas

New effort - impose our views on future Natural Resources  
Damage Settlements.

GET <sup>AHEAD</sup> IN ~~front~~ of the competition. take the high ground  
become a player.

IDEAS FOR ADDL EFFORT.

ADVOCATES FOR THE OAK RIDGE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE

ZONING - RESERVATION & OTHERWISE

EIS FOR RESERVATION - establish position for land use

ABANDON ROADS & TRAILS AT ORR - EXISTING CORRIDORS, let hunters walk,  
stop motorways for hunts

protect cultural  
heritage

PROMOTE ENV. AWARENESS  
through NATURE CENTRE  
ON 3000 Ac tract.

EXPAND 3000 AC to include  
bottom lands.