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16 June 1972

Larry E. Moss  
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California 90057

Dear Larry,

You will recall our recent conversation in which I despaired over the fact that I have never been able to interest anyone in the Club (outside of Tehipite Chapter, where I have had some success) in the Mineral King problem.

The most recent example of this is in connection with Z'berg's AB1556, which would delete part of Route 276 from the State Highway System. Quite some weeks ago, when I first heard of this bill, I asked our conservation chairman to check it out with the Club staff. He did, and was told that since the bill stood no chance of passage there was no point wasting any effort on it.

In spite of the Club's indifference to this bill, it has passed the Assembly by a rather large margin. See the enclosed Fresno Bee clipping of May 31.

I am glad to see the bill is now getting some attention in the Capitol Calendar, but am wondering what else is being done. Is it perhaps one of these situations where everyone assumes that somebody else is taking care of the matter, and consequently nothing happens?

I don't profess to know what the bill's chances are in the Senate. But I do know that more of us ought to take to heart the Sierra Club Bulletin editorial by Jim Moorman which appeared in the January 1972 issue. A copy is enclosed.

The Mineral King litigation has purchased us priceless time to carry our message to the public, and we have squandered that opportunity shamefully.

Can't we do a little better with AB 1556 in the Senate? Why not make use of the opportunity it provides us to spread our message within the legislature and before the public? Even if it failed to clear the Senate we would still have scored some points.

I think that's what Jim Moorman is trying to tell us. Is anybody listening?

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore

cc. Joe Fontaine  
Harriet Allen  
Albert Hill