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To the Recipients of the First Issue of the Dickinson School of Law Journal of Environmental Law and Policy

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To the Recipients of The First Issue of The Dickinson School of Law Journal of Environmental Law and Policy

Leslie M. MacRae
Geoffrey R. Scott

You are reading a truly unique journal. We do not mean that there are not other environmental journals out there. In fact, there may be even better ones for the moment. What is unique about this journal is the fact that it is completely student-produced. From its inception, this journal has been the idea of, and has become the product of, student lawyers interested in the environment. They have supplied their own encouragement and sweat. They have refused to be swayed from their efforts by doubters and by institutional hurdles. They represent the environmentalists of the 90s.

These young people personify a much healthier constituency than that which we once represented some twenty-five years ago at the birth of the environmental movement. To a large degree, our commitment was a rejection of the Establishment's way of doing things. We were either desirous of showing our own independence or just plain suspicious of anything or anyone in positions of power.

The environmental lawyer today recognizes what we did not, or refused to, accept: that the way to improve our environment is to work within the system. Those of us who chose public service were often in the seemingly untenable position of serving the very monster responsible in large part for the problem. Today's student recognizes that the problems that exist are created by *all of us*. The student lawyer recognizes that not every contribution need be

made by representing public interest groups or the government. He/she appreciates that the wise corporate lawyer can make significant contributions to his/her clients and the environment by devising programs designed to comply efficiently and fully with the law. Those contributions are often far more positive than the ones made by the government lawyer forced to sue after a disaster has occurred.

The journal that you are reading today is the product of those more insightful student lawyers. We applaud them. They have taken an idea and turned it into a fine product. Their legacy will live on in tangible form as a contribution to the health of the environment. We would like to be able to review the progress of the Journal over the next century to determine whether the Journal has lived up to expectations. That, of course, is not humanly possible. Perhaps, however, the health of the environment will be a better barometer of the success or failure of the Journal and its authors.

We hope you enjoy this inaugural issue. Like a tree, the first ring is always the most important.