



# ENVIRONMENTAL LAW • INSTITUTE®

September 18, 2003

Dear Concerned Citizen:

The Environmental Law Institute (ELI) has a long history of working in the broad public interest to strengthen the laws that govern the way we care for our environment and public health. According to our mission statement:

ELI advances environmental protection by improving law, policy and management. ELI researches pressing problems, educates professionals and citizens about the nature of these issues, and convenes all sectors in forging effective solutions.

We implement our mission by making our resources available to individuals, communities, businesses and governments that seek to use law to protect the environment.

Today, ELI and other organizations dedicated to environmental protection are concerned about some disturbing trends in judicial decisions that will weaken the framework of federal laws providing a safety net of environmental and public health protection for us all. Supported by foundations and think tanks opposed to practically all federal regulation, many advocates in these cases are resurrecting antiquated and discredited legal theories to limit the power of the national government to protect the environment. We believe these arguments and the judicial decisions adopting them are bad law and bad policy.

In response, ELI is launching its new Endangered Environmental Laws Program to shine the light on these issues. Our program will educate and support people in the legal, policy, business and advocacy community in their work to safeguard the environment, including the legal framework that has served our nation well. We hope you will explore the site and use its contents in your important work.

Sincerely,

Leslie Carothers  
President