



No Child Left Inside Campaign Update March 2008

The Coalition is Growing!

GREAT NEWS: The NCLI Coalition continues to grow. As of March 2008 we have more than **175 Coalition members**, representing about 20 million Americans who support including environmental education in our classrooms. Groups representing a broad spectrum of interests and concerns, from youth organizations to businesses to outdoor sportsmen in addition to environmental and education organizations, are approaching us to find out what the movement is all about. This is without a doubt a national movement with growing influence on the national debate. Help us increase this influence by spreading the word about the No Child Left Inside Coalition. Tell people to visit our website and sign-up! (website address is: www.eenclb.org)

Co-Sponsorship Scorecard

We now have **39 cosponsors in the House** and **13 in the Senate**. We need more.

Our strongest weapons remain the 20 million people represented through the NCLI Coalition! Please make that effort to get our message to members of Congress. We suggest a “Once a Week” commitment. That means making one phone call or sending one email or letter every week to your representatives.

Be sure to check out the NCLI website for news stories about environmental education and the No Child Left Inside movement.

News from the Hill

The big news is that your calls and letters have had a huge impact on Capitol Hill. When the NCLI team meets with Senate staff, they are finding that they are well aware of the NCLI legislation because they had heard from YOU. Nothing is more important to members of Congress and their staff than knowing that the folks back home care about an issue. Keep the letters and phone calls coming. It is making a very big difference.

We continue to focus on the members of the Senate HELP Committee, which we have heard may mark up the No Child Left Behind Reauthorization bill (NCLB) in the next several weeks. We want to be sure that the No Child Left Inside Act (S.1981) language is included in NCLB reauthorization draft legislation. So if one of your group’s senators is a HELP Committee member or if you have a relationship with a HELP Committee member, reach out now and let him or her know you support the NCLI Act of 2007 (S.1981) and ask him or her to cosponsor the NCLI bill and support its inclusion in the Committee NCLB reauthorization bill.

Even if your senator is not on the HELP Committee, now is the time to let him or her know that your group supports the NCLI legislation. Please continue the calls, emails, and letters to your senators asking them to support the NCLI Act and sign on as cosponsors. If you need any help with making these contacts, or drafting letters or newspaper OpEd pieces, be sure to contact us.

What Coalition Members are Doing: A Focus on Wyoming

Wyoming is a key state for NCLI because Senator Mike Enzi is the ranking Republican on the Senate HELP Committee. Our members are doing great things there, led by Sue McGuire, past-president of the Wyoming Association for Environmental Education. Several people who care about NCLI have written personal letters to the senator, and Sue has prepared an Op-ed on the issue for a local paper. WAEE was the first Wyoming coalition member, followed by a group of middle school students (the Global Warming Hero League) at the Jackson Middle School in Jackson, WY. Sue also presented at a gathering of churches, environmental groups, educators and others, which led to their voting to support NCLI and sending a strong joint letter indicating that support to Senator Enzi.

Another major Wyoming development was the formation of a new Natural Resource Education Advisory Board, which brings together higher education professors, scientists, award-winning public school teachers, environmentalists and others. They made the case to Senator Enzi that Wyoming's natural resources are a critical part of the state's economy, along with tourism, and supporting NCLI will provide the critical knowledge needed to preserve these two industries critical to the state's economy.

This has been a great effort in Wyoming. Congratulations to Sue McGuire, the Wyoming Association for Environmental Education and all of our many supporters who are making a difference!

We would like to hear from other Coalition members. If you have activities planned around the NCLI movement, let us know. We'd also like to hear from you about schools successfully using outdoor education to improve student learning. We really want to share the good news.

The NCLI Coalition's Long-Term Strategy

We have developed a long-term strategy to make sure the NCLI legislation language is included in the reauthorized NCLB. To do that, we will continue to:

- * Secure cosponsors from as many members of Congress as possible representing states from all across the country.
- * Work with states to begin developing environmental literacy plans.
- * Broaden the Coalition to include groups with an interest in the outdoors and the environment, such as recreation, hunting, and fishing; faith-based organizations; businesses with an interest in environmental education or dependent on the outdoors to sell their products; public health groups, especially those concerned with childhood obesity; and other medical organizations focused on kids' health.
- * Work with state elected officials to develop state legislation modeled after NCLI.
- * Make environmental education truly a national movement.

As a backdrop to all of these efforts, we will continue to seek media coverage of NCLI and the broader issue of environmental education – both locally in key states and nationally.

Coalition Survey Request

With so many new members on board, we continue to seek information about your organization. If you have not already completed the **NCLI Capacity Survey** please do so ASAP. These results will help continue to assess the Coalition's assets and allow us to plan strategically.

Please complete this survey by Friday March 28th. You may access the survey by clicking on this link: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=HEu9ZZfV2QnW99EPf_2bW10g_3d_3d

Talk to One of Our Congressional Sponsors

Stay tuned for information coming soon about a conference call bringing together all members of our Coalition and one of our lead Congressional sponsors. Information will be coming soon.

If you have any questions about the Coalition's work, please contact me at aybarra@cbf.org).

Thank you,

Abby Ybarra

NCLI Coalition Grassroots Coordinator