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To: <hofculctr@Hofstra.edu>
Date: Mon, Nov 15, 2004 11:36 AM
Subject: Clinton Conference Paper Proposal on Executive Orders

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to submit a paper proposal for next year's presidential conference on Bill Clinton. Attached please find a copy of my C.V.

I propose to write about Clinton's use of executive orders for environmental conservation. The millions of acres of land that Clinton protected via executive orders constitute one of the most impressive and enduring aspects of his legacy. However, many of Clinton's environmental executive orders were highly controversial and sparked a great deal of criticism from conservatives in Congress and elsewhere who charged that they amounted to executive usurpation of a policy area and an unfair imposition of federal priorities over local concerns.

I want to examine the nature and motivation of some of Clinton's executive orders for environmental conservation in order to establish whether they really were unusual. Specifically, I will argue that Clinton's use of executive orders for environmental conservation at the end of the twentieth century consciously emulated Theodore Roosevelt's executive orders for the same purpose at the start of the twentieth century; Clinton was persuaded by TR's view that the president must be the steward of the land, so he acted accordingly and issued a great number of executive orders for environmental conservation, and as a result had to endure many of the same criticisms that were leveled at TR some ninety years earlier. Thus, my paper will place an important aspect of Clinton's presidency in a broader historical and political context by making connections across both political parties and time.

This topic is closely related to my Ph.D. dissertation and other scholarly work, and I am certain that it will be of interest to a wide range of political scientists, historians, and journalists. Please let me know if any additional information would be helpful. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
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