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Alfred A Knopf *Incorporated*

501 Madison Avenue NEW YORK

January 4, 1954

Dear Mr. President:

Secretary McKay recently approved for submission to Congress a plan to build the Echo Park Dam within the Dinosaur National Monument. This project has been studied by many able engineers who have then reported it as being an unnecessary part of the admittedly important development plans for the Upper Colorado Basin. It would destroy forever one of the great scenic wonders of our country.

Worse than this, it would represent an invasion of one of the important units within the National Parks system—a Monument that really deserves the status of a Park. To me and many fellow Conservationists this is disturbing and alarming.

I therefore most earnestly hope that you will not give your approval to this Echo Park project and that you will take a firm stand against any invasion of the National Parks.

This is the most serious threat to them since the Hetch Hetchy controversy some forty years ago in California. The Conservationists lost out then with the result that a most beautiful vally in the Yosemite National Park was destroyed forever and, as almost every one involved later admitted, unnecessarily. But that was before the creation of the National Park Service.

We hope that it cannot happen again and we look to you to ensure its not happening again.

With sincere regard, I am

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Alfred A. Knopf", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Alfred A. Knopf

The Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.