May ..., 1953

Dear ...

I have listened to the debates, examined the report and also much collateral material in connection with the submerged lands controversy, on which the Senate voted on Tuesday afternoon.

I believe that the bill as reported by a majority of the members of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs is essentially sound and for that reason I supported it.

Inasmuch as the final vote on the bill was 55 to 35, it would appear that a very substantial majority of the Senate on both sides of the aisle have after the long discussion on this proposal concluded that the legislation was proper and sound.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Dear ...:

This will acknowledge your communication in which you express your interest in the controversy now on the Senate floor with respect to ownership and control of the so-called tidelands resources.

Be assured that I do appreciate your comments, and that it is receiving my best attention.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Dear ...:

I appreciate your note expressing an interest in the controversy which has been before the Congress for some time with respect to ownership and control of the so-called tidelands resources.

This matter was foundly discussed for a considerable period of time before the Senate last year and will doubtless come on for action again at a reasonably early date.

It seems to me that the nub of the question is that of ownership. The issue has been complicated and confused to some extent by suggesting a disposition of these resources for the benefit of public schools and other purposes. However, the Federal Government cannot dispose of something which it does not own and consequently we go back to the question of ownership.

When the time comes, I shall be guided by this consideration because I esteem it to be fundamental.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen