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Dear ...:

This will acknowledge your letter expressing your interest in the Des Plaines Wildlife Refuge.

As you have probably noted from the press, I have been following this whole matter very closely and have been in constant contact with the General Services Administration concerning the problem involved.

I can assure you that I am trying to see this as realistically as possible.

It will continue to receive careful attention.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Dear:

This will acknowledge the communication expressing your views concerning the Des Plaines Wildlife Area. This area will be offered for sale in three parcels for the purpose of determining whether it has the value claimed for it by those who believe it is desirable to further industrial development.

After this is done I shall have another session with Mr. Floete, General Services Administrator, to determine what can be done to serve every interest that is involved.

I am fully mindful of the widespread interest on the part of sportmen and sportmen's groups, and I hope the matter can be worked out in satisfactory fashion.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
February 23, 1959

Dear ...:

Within the last few days controversy over the Des Plaines Wildlife Area has taken on new interest.

The delegation from Joliet, including some labor leaders, have pointed out that the tract in question is the only part of the government's holdings in that area suitable for industrial development and that perchance an equal amount of terrain now in the possession of the Army might be made available for wildlife purposes. I have already contacted the Secretary of the Army and expect to have a session with the Administrator of the General Services Administration within the next few days.

In addition I should point out that the Director of Conservation for the State of Illinois did indicate a good many months back that a part of the area in question might be properly used for industrial purposes, and all of this information is now in the possession of the General Services Administration.

I do hope we can contrive a solution which is at once agreeable and fair to all parties in interest.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen