



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1905-01-13

Letter from W[illia]m E. Colby to John Muir, 1905 Jan 13.

William E. Colby

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"To explore, enjoy, and render accessible the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast; to publish authentic information concerning them; to enlist the support and co-operation of the people and the Government in preserving the forests and other natural features of the Sierra Nevada Mountains."



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San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 13, 1905.

Mr. John Muir,
President Sierra Club,
Martinez, Cal.

My Dear Mr. Muir:

Yours of the 10th together with Mr. Johnson's letter reached me on my return from Sacramento day before yesterday. I made a second trip in order to see that the bill for the Recession of Yosemite was properly introduced in both houses. You probably saw by the papers that this has been done. The bill was referred to Senate and Assembly committees on forests and public lands. I arranged for a joint meeting of these committees to consider the bill and it will be very important to have every one we can persuade to be in Sacramento and attend that joint meeting for a great deal will depend upon the ^{recommendation} ~~introduction~~ of these committees. As near as I was able to ascertain at that time, the matter will come before the joint committee next Wednesday. My plan in having a joint committee meeting was in order to avoid the necessity of making two trips and our delegation which goes up to Sacramento will only have to make one trip. I will give you a couple of days notice and I sincerely trust that nothing will interfere with your being there with us for you are the most important person to help us in this matter and it is simply

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imperative that you should be there. I will endeavor to get as many other prominent men as possible, and I would suggest to help matters along that you write at once to President Jordan, Mr. Olney and perhaps President Wheeler, asking them if they will kindly aid us in this matter by attending that committee meeting in Sacramento and that I will inform them two days in advance of the exact date. I will write to them also but they will pay a great deal more attention to a request from you.

I agree with you and do not think that the opposition of the Examiner has amounted to much but has rather helped us than otherwise. Our whole fight will be in the Senate and it will require very earnest work and determined effort to overcome the opposition which has been created by Senator Curtin of Sonora. Have you written to Lieut. Gov. Alden Anderson requesting him to aid us in this matter? A strong letter from you to him would undoubtedly do much good as he is presiding officer in the Senate. I deem it very important that you should write to him as he will pay a great deal more attention to a letter from you than one from me.

I have a very strong letter from Congressman Needham in whose district Yosemite Valley is situated. He is very heartily in favor of recession and he gives me as his opinion that it will be unnecessary for Congress to pass an act accepting the Valley but that the President can assume control immediately upon the act passing our Legislature. With the President favorable we will have no trouble about that part of it. However, I do not deem it wise to mention this fact as most of the legislators in Sacramento deem it necessary for Congress to take action, and if they