



DEC 12 2012

Dr. Lee Talbot
6656 Chilton Court
McLean, Virginia 22101

Dear Dr. Talbot:

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. As part of this anniversary, we commemorate the important role of several Americans who were “present at the creation” and who had the vision and leadership to make the Convention a reality. On behalf of the American public, the Department of State, and Department of the Interior, I would like to extend to you our appreciation and gratitude for the key role you played in the creation of the World Heritage Convention. The Convention reminds all Americans that we should take pride in our natural and cultural wonders, and in the important contributions the United States has made to global conservation.

Your work to promote and shape the Convention at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and later at the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) was instrumental in turning the concept of a “World Heritage Trust” into the reality of the World Heritage Convention. Working closely with Mr. Russell Train, you helped gain support for the Convention throughout the U.S. Government and ensured that the Convention focused on both natural and cultural preservation.

Today the World Heritage Convention is the most widely ascribed to international agreement for nature and cultural preservation, with 190 State Parties and nearly 1,000 sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. All of these sites, and indeed the very idea that the international community has a stake in their preservation, will forever be linked to your important contributions to global conservation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hillary Rodham Clinton".

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Salazar".

Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior