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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4202

September 18, 2002

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
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FORESTS AND FOREST HEALTH
GOVERNMENT REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE:
ENERGY POLICY, NATURAL RESOURCES
AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

Mr. Dennis Seal
3920 Summercrest Way
#214
Knoxville, Tennessee 37918

Dear ~~Mr. Seal~~ DENNIS:

I wanted to take the time to thank you for coming by my Knoxville office a few weeks ago. It was very good to have the opportunity to sit and talk with you on an individual basis.

As I told you at our meeting, I believe that the worst thing that could ever happen to a parent is to outlive their children. I am tremendously sorry for what happened to your son and to your family.

I do not think that we should have such an inflexible zero tolerance policy in our school system. I believe that each situation should be decided on a case to case basis. Of course, there are certainly some situations where teachers and principals need to be tough. However, in your son's particular case I believe that he was treated unfairly and the punishment far outweighed the offense.

While these matters are generally left up to the local school board and to some extent the State authorities, rest assured that I will express these views as often as I can to make my opinion known.

I want to wish you and your family the very best and if I, or a member of my staff, can ever be of additional service, please do not hesitate to let me know.

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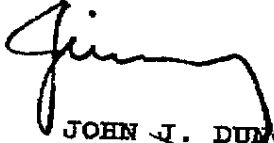
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With kindest regards, I am

Yours truly,



JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.
Member of Congress

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