

October 15, 1979

Mr. Eric Schockman
Assistant to Assemblyman Art Agnos
350 McAllister Street
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Eric,

Thank you for returning my call to Assemblyman Agnos today and helping me on the major problem of crossing the Bay Bridge on April 13, 1980.

I'm enclosing a voluminous amount of material on the American Hiking Society and its Hikanation. There is probably more than you ever would want to know about AHS and our cross-country hike, but browse through it at will basically to see who we are and why we are planning a project of this nature.

We appreciate everything you can do for us regarding Bridge Day and working with the Legislature.

Many thanks,

Sincerely yours,

Mike McReynolds
Bay Area Coordinator
American Hiking Society

MM/
Enclosure

THE
AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY

317 Pennsylvania Avenue, S. E., Washington, D. C. 20003



Please reply to 110 Sutter Street, Suite 1003, San Francisco, CA 94104

November 1, 1979

The Hon. Art Agnos
Assemblyman for the 16th District
350 McAllister Street
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Assemblyman Agnos:

On Saturday, this coming April 12th, an estimated 10,000 people will participate in opening weekend events of the American Hiking Society's HikaNation. This trans-continental hike will begin at the Polo Grounds in Golden Gate Park and will end some 14 months later at the Washington Monument in Washington, DC. The idea of the hike is to publicize the need for additional hiking trails and footpaths in the United States, as well as hiking and walking as a simple alternative to energy wasting forms of single, group and family activities.

In order to achieve this goal of an ocean to ocean hike our local task force here in the Bay Area needs your help.

Our first major problem is crossing the Bay Bridge. I have been in contact with Assemblyman Art Agnos asking for his initial help (since he is my Assemblyman) in obtaining permission to cross the bridge by closing off one lane of traffic on Sunday morning, April 13th. The reaction from the lower echelons of the CalTrans department responsible for the bridge with whom his office spoke was not favorable. They said even though precedent has been set by allowing marathon races on the bridge, they would no longer allow foot crossings of any kind in the future. The Assemblyman's office then informed me that Assemblyman Agnos had decided write a strong letter to the higher levels of CalTrans, and that I should get in touch with all the Bay Area State Senators and Assemblymen to enlist their help as a high percentage of participating hikers on Opening Day and Bridge Day would be coming from their districts.

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The estimation of 10,000 people seems to be fairly reasonable as we have the help and participation of not only the local members of the American Hiking Society, but also the Sierra Club and the Boy Scouts, as well as the help and participation of other outdoor and wilderness groups. This does not even take into consideration the large number of ordinary hiking enthusiasts throughout San Francisco, Marin, Contra Costa, Alameda and San Mateo Counties.

As it is currently planned, we will hike from the Polo Grounds out to Ocean Beach and then along the shore to the Golden Gate Bridge and Fort Mason. After camping overnight at Fort Mason, we intend to hike along the Embarcadero, up an access ramp, across the Bay Bridge to our next overnight campsite in Berkeley's Aquatic Park. At that point (Sunday afternoon) probably 95% of the hikers will return to their homes throughout the Bay Area, but a small group of hikers will then proceed the next morning across Berkeley, over the Berkeley Hills into the East Bay Regional Park system and on to Mt. Diablo, the Delta, Sacramento, the Mother Lode, across the Sierra and up to the Nevada border. Many hikers will be joining this small group each weekend. The hike will then cross Nevada, Utah, Colorado and other States with local hikers joining and leaving the nucleus group until reaching Washington, DC, in the late Spring of 1981. At that point a large mass of hikers are expected to join the hike for the last day into Washington. There have been many inquiries from hikers who wish to attempt to go the entire distance.

To begin with I am enclosing a copy of the planned California route that has already been hiked in its entirety by my fellow committee member Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg (Nobel Laureate and Associate Director-at-Large of Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories). His route will take the hikers from San Francisco to the California/Nevada border (at which place the Nevada contingent takes over). This planned routing gives us 22 days to cross the State with a rest day every week. If we are denied our one lane to cross the Bay Bridge two possible problems arise; 1. our second day (Sunday) turns out to be a total dud as the only hiking will be from Fort Mason

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to the TransBay Terminal where we would have to catch AC Transit buses (a very difficult proposition) or charter buses (an extremely expensive proposition) to enable everyone to cross the Bay to continue the hike to Aquatic Park; or, 2. we would be forced to add an extra week and a half to go around San Pablo Bay to reconnect with our planned route. This delay (plus any others encountered as the hike progresses across the country) could add to heat problems in crossing Colorado and Kansas, as well as snow problems in the Middle Appalachians.

So you can see our major problem. The idea is to hike the entire width of the country from ocean to ocean. It would seem a shame to interrupt the hike on the first weekend and have to go from ocean to bayshore to bayshore to ocean.

Because the HikaNation is designed to promote the need for trails, as well as hiking and backpacking as non-energy consuming activities, we would like to have the largest turnout possible, along with nationwide media coverage. (The problems of adequate chemical toilets, water and emergency facilities have been considered.) When the Golden Gate Bridge opened, Opening Day was for pedestrians only. The Bridge was packed from side to side with walkers because they knew they could always drive across the bridge at a later date, but this would be the only time they would be able to walk down the center of it. I don't recall ever reading about a similar Opening Day on the Bay Bridge, and to my knowledge no non-runner has ever crossed its entire length on foot since it was built. That in itself would insure a tremendous turnout of walkers for Bridge Day as well as national media coverage.

With a strong public showing on the weekend of April 12th and 13th, our HikaNation would be well on the way toward its twin goals of hiking from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean and publicizing the need for more trails and footpaths, as well as hiking for recreation.

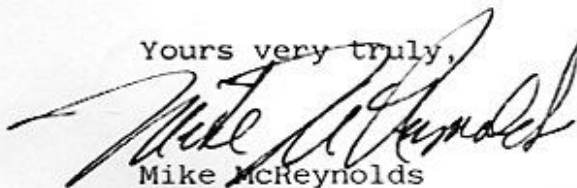
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The American Hiking Society would appreciate your help in opening one lane on the Bay Bridge for the Hika-Nation on Sunday morning, April 13th, 1980.

If you have any questions about AHS or the Hika-Nation, please give me a call during the day at my office phone in San Francisco, 981-0970. At night, usually after 8:00, I can be reached at my home phone 824-4813 (unlisted).

Along with Dr. Seaborg's route I am sending you some additional material introducing the American Hiking Society and the HikaNation itself.

Yours very truly,



Mike McReynolds
Chairman
Bay Area Committee

MM/
Enclosures

THE
AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY

317 Pennsylvania Avenue, S. E., Washington, D. C. 20003

Please reply to 110 Sutter Street, Suite 1003, San Francisco, California 94104



November 7, 1979

Mr. Eric Schockman
Assistant to Assemblyman Art Agnos
350 McAllister Street
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Eric,

The other day when you called to tell me about the Assemblyman's letter to the Director of the State Department of Transportation, you asked if the letters to the other Senators and Assemblymen in the Bay Area had been sent. Assuming they had, I said yes, they had gone out several days earlier. Unfortunately, there was a problem with getting the enclosures reproduced by another person and I suddenly found the entire bundle back on my doorstep. I can now say positively, all Assemblymen and Senators should have their material by now. Just thought I'd let you know about that angle.

I appreciate your help and Assemblyman Agno's letter. It is just the kind of strong letter we need to get our multitudes across the Bay (unfortunately, I do not have all that much in common with Moses even though we do share a mutual interest in hiking).

I am writing a personal letter of thanks to the Assemblyman, as well as including the letter he would have received had I not earlier communicated with you and gotten the project underway.

I will keep you abreast of things as they do or do not happen.

Best regards,

Sincerely,

Mike McReynolds

MM/

Enclosure

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AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY

317 Pennsylvania Avenue, S. E., Washington, D. C. 20003



Please reply to 110 Sutter Street, Suite 1003, San Francisco, CA 94104

November 7, 1979

The Hon. Art Agnos
Assemblyman for the 16th District
350 McAllister Street
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Assemblyman Agnos:

On behalf of the American Hiking Society, I wish to thank you for your interest in and support of our up-coming HikaNation. I also thank you for your strong letter to Ms. Adriana Gianturco, Director of the State Department of Transportation requesting the opening of one lane on the Bay Bridge on April 13th. Our Committee's work in making Opening Day and Bridge Day on that April weekend a success will be due a large part to your considerable efforts and help on our behalf.

I will be keeping Eric Schockman of your office up-to-date on events as they transpire (both good and disasterous).

My best regards to you,

Sincerely yours,

Mike McReynolds
Chairman
Bay Area Committee

P.S. I am enclosing an actual letter that has been sent to all the Bay Area Assemblymen and Senators, and which would have been sent to you if I had not previously made contact with your office.

MM/
Enclosures

PLEASE REPLY TO:
SACRAMENTO ADDRESS
ROOM 3091, STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO 95814
TELEPHONE: (916) 445-8526
COMMITTEE TELEPHONE:
(916) 445-7082

DISTRICT OFFICE
1035 DETROIT AVENUE
SUITE 400

CONCORD 94518
TELEPHONE: (415) 689-1973

EAST COUNTY
213 F STREET

ANTIOCH 94509
TELEPHONE: (415) 754-3011

Assembly California Legislature

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MEMBER:
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Wildlife Committee
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Committee
Joint Legislative Budget
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Committee
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REPRESENTING:
Tenth Assembly District
Contra Costa County

November 13, 1979

Mr. Mike McReynolds, Chairman
Bay Area Committee
The American Hiking Society
110 Sutter Street, Suite 1003
San Francisco, CA 94104

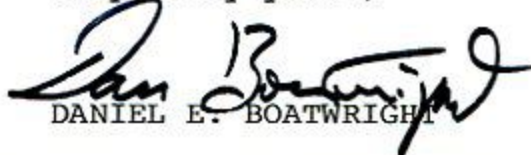
Dear Mr. McReynolds:

Thank you for your letter of November 1,
1979, concerning the Society's HikaNation to begin
April 12th.

My office will make a point of keeping in
touch with Art Agnos' office on your problem with
crossing the Bay Bridge. Please be assured, we will
do what we can.

Kindest regards.

Very truly yours,


DANIEL E. BOATWRIGHT

DEB:ck