



Appalachia-Science
in the Public Interest
50 Lair St, Mt. Vernon,
Kentucky 40456-9806

Thanksgiving, 1997

Dear Friends,

Autumns come more frequently when we're busy. As of this writing the killing frost has been delayed, allowing our gardens to yield their bounties during this very productive season.

Yes, we're launching our annual Thanksgiving Drive once again. The money we hope to raise is used to maintain our demonstration center projects. In fact this is a major source of income for us and we have come to count on your generosity. Like you, we read a host of begging letters. They generally divide into two classes: help-us-for-your-good and the help-us-or-we'll-die. These begging letters are clever but of limited modesty. Forgive us for being so straight forward, for we find new phrases difficult to create. We like to tell you what we have achieved this year and intend for the next (see enclosed sheet). And you may get along without us, but we can barely get along without you. Every dollar helps.

Please compare our last year's letter with this year's accomplishments. We have meet most goals and still expect to expand activities for the upcoming year. In celebrating our 20th anniversary during 1997 we have had more publicity, though we would like more. Work commenced on our alternative forest products project. The massive *Environmental Resource Assessment* background materials have been assembled, edited and are in the process of being published along with 14 RAS assessments. Our ASPI physical facilities have been vastly improved with completion of the Library annex, 15 raised garden beds, a cistern and wildscape at Mount Vernon and our Nature Center, a trail and 600 feet of rock work at our Livingston center. We have interacted with over a thousand visitors and volunteers and given talks to almost 10,000 Eastern Kentucky students regarding threats to our treasured forest. On the advocacy front we now see the fruition of our work since 1990 to change U.S. Forest Service policy on Off-road vehicles use.

All in all, it was a very good year and one when we can tell our 6,200 supporters that their money is used well. Again, we consider each of you to be very dear to us and invite you to come and see how your dollars are being spent. Our approach is not to stress the immense needs of our Appalachian people -- which are real--, but to emphasize the environmental alternatives that we offer. We're able to generate interest in well-founded tested appropriate technology procedures which are now coming back into vogue. Your generous donations make this possible.

Sincerely

Martha Bond
for ASPI