

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY  
223 BARTRAM HALL  
904-392-1107

February 1, 1985

Michael Weber  
Center for Environmental Education  
624 9th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Michael:


Thank you very much for sending me a copy of the CEE proposal to counter the growing efforts of commercially oriented agencies and individuals to increase international trade in sea turtles. The spreading effort to enfeeble CITES, and especially the participation of high-level political figures in the campaign, have been disheartening, and it is good to learn of your willingness to organize the opposition.

There can be no doubt that, if successful, the moves to extend world commerce and open U.S. markets to turtle products will impair the survival outlook of natural sea turtle populations. The coming meeting of CITES will therefore be a critical event in the history of sea turtle conservation. It has been long evident that international commerce cannot be borne by natural marine turtle populations. It is also clear that traffic in products from turtle culture operations would inevitably redound to the detriment of the species in nature.

I have carefully read your proposal to work for the retention of existing controls and am in complete agreement that such counteraction is constructive and necessary. I am also confident that the CEE is well-equipped to mount the vigorous and scholarly campaign that will be required if the serious weakening of CITES is to be forestalled.

So good luck, and many thanks for your efforts.

Sincerely yours,

  
Archie Carr  
Graduate Research Professor

AC/ms