Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

September 5, 2006

His Excellency Dennis J. Richardson
The Ambassador of Australia
Embassy of Australia
1601 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

The Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy has a primary responsibility for promoting conservation and today we join the world of environmental and wildlife conservation in mourning the loss of one of its great champions--Steve Irwin.

His tragic and untimely passing is first and foremost a loss to his beautiful family, but it is also a loss to millions of American families and the generations he joined together with his unique style of entertaining and educational outreach to promote conservation. I count my own children among those whose lives have been bettered and whose outlook he enhanced with his passion and depth of knowledge. Steve had an uncanny ability to captivate us, spotlight the blessings and harmony of our natural surroundings, and make us embrace the furthest and most remote reaches of the earth and appreciate its magnificence with youthful enthusiasm.

I am hopeful that everyone connected with Steve's mission to educate, inform and protect the environment will continue to be inspired by his legacy of dedication to wildlife and his commitment to conservation.

Through his life and his work, Steve immortalized the meaningfulness of positive interaction between man and nature. Those he touched shall carry on this work, stronger for his talent and mission.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Terri Irwin and their children. We extend our condolences to them and to you and the people of Australia as you mourn the loss of one of your great sons.

With deepest sympathy,

Alexander A. Karsner
Assistant Secretary
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Printed with soy ink on recycled paper