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Received 16 Jan. 1991; accepted 30 Aug. 1991.

## COMMITTEE FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The Committee for the National Institutes for the Environment has opened a Washington office to spearhead efforts to establish a National Institutes for the Environment (BioScience 40(8):567). Dr. David E. Blockstein has been appointed as Director of the Washington office. Dr. Blockstein, an ornithologist, was the 1987-1988 Congressional Science Fellow for AIBS and the American Society of Zoologists where he worked on national legislation to conserve biological diversity. Most recently Dr. Blockstein was a project associate for women and minority affairs for AIBS. Dr. Blockstein earned a M.S. in 1982 and Ph.D. in 1986 in ecology and behavioral biology at the University of Minnesota.

The NIE proposal is an effort to expand greatly environmental research and education through a new funding agency that would support competitively-awarded mission-oriented environmental research. Of the \$9 billion in federal extramural support for science, 11% goes to environmental sciences (broadly defined). This amount could be increased and the results of this research made more applicable to solving environmental problems through an interdisciplinary agency, analogous to the National Institutes of Health. The present proposal is to set up a series of problem-oriented institutes that would support competitively-awarded mission-oriented environmental research. Legislation to have the National Academy of Sciences study the NIE concept is presently moving through Congress. The plan for the NIE is still in an early conceptual stage. Environmental scientists who are interested in having input in the process should contact Dr. David E. Blockstein, Director of the Washington office of the NIE Committee. The office is housed at the American Institutes for Biological Sciences building, 730 11th St. NW, Washington, DC 20001-4521; phone 202-628-4303; fax 202-628-4311.

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Received 26 Aug. 1991; accepted 2 Nov. 1991.

### COMMITTEE FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SEEKS INFORMATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH NEEDS

The Committee for the National Institutes for the Environment (CNIE) is trying to determine priority needs in environmental research and training that are not supported by present funding sources. CNIE is also seeking examples of "success stories" where environmental research and training has led to solutions or amelioration of environmental problems and saved money and examples of "horror stories" where lack of environmental research and training has hindered progress towards solving environmental problems and has resulted in wasted money. This material will be useful in the design of the National Institutes for the Environment (NIE), which is presently under study by the National Academy of Sciences. Please send comments about priority needs (including comments about why these are not being addressed by existing funding agencies) and well-documented examples, including citations or reprints to Committee for the NIE, 730 11th St. NW, Washington, DC 20001-4521; phone 202-628-4303; fax 202-628-4311; BITNET AIBS@GWUVM.