

Ventura, California
October 23, 1941.

Dear Senator Johnson:

Along the Roosevelt Highway in Southern California—approximately fifteen miles to the north of Santa Monica and along the Pacific Ocean, lies a strip of land that has as yet few houses built upon it. The owner has kept this section free from subdivision and settlement up until the present year. She has since died—as a result the hillsides and beach frontages are being subdivided and land is being sold.

The strip I mention is from Malibu Beach, a distance of some thirty miles north in both Los Angeles and Ventura Counties to Point Mugu or Hueneme, California. The scenery is ordinary ocean front scenery in its natural state. We have national parks in the mountains but very few state or national parks to preserve the beaches for such long distances and on such a large scale. There is, at the present time, very little land along the ocean front within driving distance of the larger cities that is not fenced off with signs of "Keep Out—Private Property" attached.

I enjoy riding along the ocean front; I'm sure that you do, and I know that hundreds of others do—and I think it more pleasant to be able to see the waves break against the shores without having private homes in front of the view or fences that can not be scaled.

It is my suggestion that the federal government buy this land along the ocean front for a distance of thirty miles—and inland for over two or three miles to preserve the ocean beauty for future generations. This same situation exists along the entire California coast—the mountains and pine trees are being preserved, but the ocean frontage is not.

Can you tell me just what department of the government it would be necessary for me to contact in order to secure action on this matter? Would it be possible for you to give your support and use your contacts as a government officer and representative of the state of California to secure such action? Perhaps it would be possible for the state of California and the federal government to unite on the matter. I am mailing a copy of this suggestion to both Governor Olson and President Roosevelt.

If this land is not suitable perhaps some other beach land can be purchased and a federal park secured.

Yours truly,

(sgd) Marjorie Fraser