Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the House Resources Committee! My name is Anne Doyle and I will be your chair for the 2003 HMC conference in February. I am a junior at Harvard, and I concentrate in Social Studies, with a focus in International Relations. This is my third year with Harvard Model Congress; the past two years, I have serve as a vice-chair in both the House and the Senate. My extra-curricular activities at Harvard, in addition to HMC, include rowing for the women’s crew team, and working for the special events committee within an organization called Women in Business. My long-term career interests are split between business and government in the international arena. I hope you’re looking forward to HMC 2003 as much as I am – the topics that we will be discussing in committee promise to be nothing short of enthralling!

Ecoterrorism (or the destruction of property in the name of the environment) is becoming an increasingly serious problem as groups such as the Earth Liberation Front become more violent and attack a broader base of victims. While our nation focuses on fighting terrorism domestically and abroad, the public is less tolerant of ecoterrorism, yet resources that might be used to fight it are instead directed to other anti-terrorist efforts. Prosecuting ecoterrorist crimes has been largely unsuccessful, as local and federal crime-fighters have not been able to penetrate these untraditional criminal organizations. Ecoterrorism poses an increasing danger to our society, and effective solutions must be found.

Gambling on Indian reservations has become a very successful economic tool for many tribes, yet the tension between states and tribes has increased. After the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act has been in effect for a number of years, the problems that have resulted need to be readdressed. More explicit policies for resolving disputes must be implemented, which will set the standard for tribal-state relations in the future in all areas of conflict.

Forest fires cause a tremendous amount of destruction to private property and the nation’s public resources and endanger thousands of lives each year. The methods for preventing and containing these forest fires are hotly debated. Past American forest fire policy has been the cause of the horrible destruction today, thus it is imperative that policies are well researched and effective in order to reduce today’s and the future destruction through effective and cost-efficient techniques.

The issues that we will be considering in the House Resources Committee are therefore both interesting and controversial. These debates aren’t divided neatly along partisan lines, meaning that coalitions must be formed and compromises must be hashed out in order to produce effective solutions.

I look forward to meeting you all, and I wish you luck with your research. If you have any questions or would just like to introduce yourselves to me, send me an email. I’d love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Anne Doyle
5 Leverett Mail Center
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 493-2673
atdoyle@fas.harvard.edu