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Subject: Alternative Legislative Strategy - "Flying Below Radar"

For the purposes of discussion, I would like to mention an alternative legislative strategy. Quite simply it is this: We get language in the appropriation bill to extend the Board for one year. The language would be something like "the Board is authorized to expend funds until September 30, 1998." Along with the language appropriating what we want in the bill, I think our goal would be accomplished. This is the "flying below radar" strategy. Clearly, we would have to get (a) someone to "honcho" it for us; and (b) the support of the authorization Committee people. If the extension could actually be accomplished this easily with the necessary language in our appropriation bill, there are a lot of advantages: 1. Less time spent on seeking the extension; more time on records; 2. A focus on the extension is avoided and we live on quietly, while we continue to do our work; and 3. Our public supporters get what they want; potential detractors go along (hopefully) or do not focus on it because there is not a lot of attention on it or they figure there is nothing to gain by fighting because it involves short money. I wanted to see what you thought. I haven't researched whether or not legally the extension could potentially be accomplished this easily, but it may be worth raising with the right people. From what I understand, Members of Congress do not usually like to use appropriation bills to bypass authorizations, but for small money and a simple one year extension, there might not be opposition. I'll talk to you before Friday. Eileen got my flights.

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