



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

South Carolina Chapter

P. O. Box 2388

Columbia, SC 29202

803-256-8487 • Fax 803-256-8448

June 22, 2003

U.S. Senator Ernest Hollings
125 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

FAX: 202-224-4293

Re.: Congaree Swamp National Monument

Dear Senator Hollings:

The South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club supports your legislation to expand and reclassify the Congaree Swamp National Monument. We thank you for your preservation efforts regarding the Congaree Swamp and for your support of the environment generally.

The Congaree Swamp National Monument on the meandering Congaree River is a tranquil setting of world champion trees, primeval forest landscapes, and diverse plant and animal life. This 21,479-acre intact old-growth bottomland hardwood forest is a remnant of what much of the Southeast looked like 200-plus years ago. The opportunity to add 4,526-acres to this living ecological museum cannot be ignored.

We also believe that Congaree Swamp is more appropriately identified as a national "park." This designation, within the Park Service, will accord the "swamp" its appropriate status and possible funding within the Department of Interior.

The South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club was formed 25 years ago as a result of citizen involvement to form the Congaree Swamp National Monument in 1976. Our Sierra Club chapter could receive no better gift on our 25th birthday than the expansion and redesignation of this sanctuary for plants, animals, researchers, and hikers.

On behalf of the 5,200 Sierra Club members in South Carolina, again, we thank you and support your efforts.

Sincerely,

Dell Isham
SC Chapter Director
Sierra Club