

New Soils Building  
October 4, 1934

Dr. W. C. Boone  
Ottumwa  
Iowa

Dear Dr. Boone:

I have learned that there is some difficulty between the Commission and the State College which involves the continuance of the research appropriation which I recommended during the Iowa Game Survey.

Iowa is the first state to set up out of its own funds an active research relationship between its Commission and its Agricultural College, and such a relationship is a vital part of the entire chain of ideas first proposed in the American Game Policy and later incorporated in the Iowa Conservation Plan. Hence in one sense the question of continuance of this appropriation is a national as well as a state issue. To this extent it might be argued that Iowa should give outside parties like myself a hearing before discontinuing the present arrangement.

It is, of course, difficult for me to get any grasp of the current details which are worrying you and the College. Do you think it would be unreasonable for me to ask for the privilege of seeing some written statement which expresses the viewpoint of the Commission and the College, respectively? I take it that there must have been some exchange of letters. If I could see these, it is barely possible that I might be able to suggest some adjustment which might salvage the outside or national values which are at stake.

During the period which has elapsed since the original Iowa set-up, I have, of course, learned a good many things about better ways in which to finance and organize research work. It is barely possible that if I were allowed the privilege of seeing the statement of the case, I might be able to suggest something. In any event, I hope that both the Commission and the College will go slow in the severance of a relationship which constitutes a sort of test case on which future policy in many other states will be built. I also hope that both parties will realize that imperfections in the first trial of such a relationship do not necessarily mean that the basic principle is unworkable.

With kindest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Aldo Leopold  
In Charge, Game Research

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