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TO: The Environmental Protection Agency

FROM: Joseph Polisar, Chief, Garden Grove, CA Police Department
President, International Association of Chiefs of Police

DATE: March 23, 2004

RE: National Environmental Crime Prevention Week

I am pleased to join with law enforcement executives across the nation in recognizing National Environmental Crime Prevention Week 2004.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police has long been a leading force in the fight against crime and this week in particular, we pay close attention to the struggle we face in protecting the natural resources of our nation. The importance of partnerships cannot be overemphasized as we consider the critical role that law enforcement officers play in recognizing and responding to environmental crime.

That is why this year's theme for National Environmental Crime Prevention Week, "Learn the Signs of Environmental Crime", is especially important. Only through cooperation with individuals, communities and environmental enforcement professionals can we hope to more effectively and efficiently combat criminal activity that will surely affect your neighborhood and mine. For many years, the IACP has worked to educate our membership through our Environmental Crimes Committee, which studies emerging issues in environmental crime.

I commend the EPA on its outreach to communities across the United States and its efforts to educate citizens, and law enforcement officers alike, about the warning signs and devastating effects of environmental crime.

Best wishes for a successful and safe observance of National Environmental Crime Prevention Week.

Joseph M. Polisar