



**United Nations Conference on Environment & Development**  
**Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'Environnement et le Développement**

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**Mr. James W. Nelson**  
**Director**  
**UN Association of Minnesota**  
**4820 14th Avenue South**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55417**  
**USA**

**Dear Mr. Nelson,**

I wish to congratulate the UN Association of Minnesota in its effort to support the work of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The UNCED or "Earth Summit" will be one of the most important events on the global agenda of 1992. It is an opportunity for nations of the world to find a common basis for action in order to protect the future of our planet.

It would also be an opportunity for individuals and communities to take up the challenge of environmental protection and encourage sustainable development. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as the UN Association of Minnesota have an important role to play in the UNCED process.

First, NGOs can influence governments to attach greater priority to the conservation of the environment. The NGOs have a wide network in all sectors of society and can play an influential role.

Second, NGOs can educate individuals and communities on issues of environment and development through the activities and programs on a regular basis.

Third, NGOs can advise governments on a wide range of environmental concerns as many NGOs are specialists in their own right.

The efforts undertaken by your organization are a step in the right direction. I am impressed by the large scale of activities planned for your community by the UN Association of Minnesota. It is my hope that other similar organizations will be encouraged to follow your example by playing an active role in the UNCED process.

**Ambassador Tommy Koh**  
**Chairman**  
**Preparatory Committee to UNCED**



*IN OUR HANDS*