Dear

You are asked to attend a meeting of gay and lesbian leaders the weekend of February 26–28th at the Airlie House conference center in Virginia.

A select group of lesbian and gay leaders nationwide are being invited to this conference. Our purpose is to examine the state of the movement in 1988 – a movement which can bring over a half-million people to Washington to demonstrate our commitment and our numbers to the nation and the nation's politicians, but a movement which, three days later, can be kicked in the gut by those politicians as 96 Senators and 368 Representatives vote in favor of Jesse Helms' "better dead than gay" restriction on AIDS educational funding.

A movement which has blossomed in the past two decades, with thousands of local organizations and institutions and a score of organizations exerting national influence, but with little common strategy and little sense of cohesion in expressing ourselves as an organized national political and educational force.

We want to build a stronger movement. Not a single organization that replaces or smothers our diversity and the vitality which comes from pluralism, but a psychology and infrastructure for encouraging the diverse elements of the movement to work together in common purpose.

Enclosed you will find a broader statement of our purpose. We hope you will be a part of this process. You are being invited because we know of you as a leader, whether a leader or leading supporter of a lesbian/gay organization, or a leading member of your community who happens to be gay or lesbian.

More details on the conference and logistics will be mailed in early January. For the moment, we hope you will plan on reaching Airlie House by Friday evening, February 26 (via Dulles Airport or other transport through Washington, DC), and remaining until Sunday afternoon, February 28. Costs per person are indicated on the enclosed information sheet.

Please be with us.

For the organizing committee,

Michael Shower

(Oranizing Committee listed on reverse)
Organizing Committee

(Information)
(Organizations Listed for Identification Purposes)

ROGER ANDERSON
Los Angeles

VIC BASILE
Executive Director
Human Rights Campaign Fund

PAUL Bonnberg
Mobilization Against AIDS

DAN BRADLEY
Miami

SHERRIE COHEN
Executive Director
Fund for Human Dignity

PAT CHRISTEN
Public Policy Director
San Francisco AIDS Foundation

DUKE COMEGYS
Co-Chair
Human Rights Campaign Fund

CRAIG DAVIDSON
Executive Director
Gay & Lesbian Alliance
Against Defamation

JOETOM EASLEY
Chair
Lambda Legal Defense
and Education Fund

PAULA ETTELBRICK
Lambda Legal Defense
and Education Fund

AVRUM FINKELSTEIN
Silence = Death

CHUCK FORESTER
San Francisco

ANDY HUMM
Hetrick-Martin Institute

JOYCE HUNTER
National March on Washington
Steering Committee

HOWARD KATZ
New York

JEFF LEVI
Executive Director
National Gay & Lesbian Task Force

MARIE MANION
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MICHAEL ROSANO
City Council President's Office
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VIVIAN SHAPIRO
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MICHAEL SHOWER
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Executive Director
People With AIDS Coalition (NY)

TOM STODDARD
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TIM SWEENEY
Deputy Executive Director for Policy
Gay Men's Health Crisis

ROBIN TYLER
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ROSE WALTON
State University of New York-Stoney Brooke

STEVEN WEBB
Silence = Death

TIM WOLFRED
Executive Director
San Francisco AIDS Foundation