

# Bergland asks farmers to help pay for damage

WASHINGTON Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland is asking farmers and their organizations to help pay repair costs for the extensive damage to the Mall in Washington.

Speaking to reporters on the Mall, Bergland said, "The Mall is our nation's front yard and it should be kept in as good condition as farmers keep their own front yards. The recent damage to the Mall during the farmers' demonstrations reflects badly on the image of farmers, even though the damage was caused by only a small number of farmers."

"I have received many phone calls and letters from farmers and farm



Robert Bergland

organizations saying that they wanted to help restore the Mall. I have also

received contributions from the general public wanting to help pay the costs of repairing the damages," Bergland said.

The secretary noted that he has no authority to solicit funds, but that he has conferred with the National Park Foundation and determined that this organization is the proper place for contributions to be sent.

"I am making a personal contribution to this repair effort and I hope that all farmers and their organizations from throughout the United States will do the same. I think this is appropriate and necessary to restore the credibility and the image of America's

farmers," Secretary Bergland said.

Contributions for repairing the Mall will be accepted by check or money order sent to: The Mall Fund, National Park Foundation, Washington, D.C., 20240. All contributions are tax deductible.

The National Park Foundation, a non-profit organization associated with the National Park Service, will receive all contributions and give them to the National Park Service for the Mall repairs. Funds received over the estimated repair costs of \$950,000 will be used for the continuing effort to maintain the Mall, visited by over 18 million people each year.

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