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## Letter from J. R. Branson to John Muir, 1909 May 25.

J. R. Branson

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Aurora, Nebraska. May 25, 1909.

Dear Sir:-

Your valued favor of 19 inst. is received, giving me the desired information regarding Hetch-Hetchy Valley, the Tuolumne Meadows, etc.

Please accept my thanks for the kindness.

I hope California, whose interest financially is more in jeopardy from San Francisco's Bill in Congress attempting to get Hetch-Hetchy Valley and all the rest she is after to destroy for her Water Supply, than is the interest of any other ten States, will rise up en masse with her petitions now to Congress and besiege Washington with letters praying the defeat of the Bill, for if San Francisco were granted her application every town and City in California would be hurt for all time except San Francisco. But I do not believe that Congress could be induced to pass the Bill over the head of the great Commonwealth of California alone if the whole State, outside of San Francisco, would rise up en masse solid with their petitions and thousands of individual letters to Congress appealing and protesting against the abominable Bill of scheme.

Push the campaign against it at your end of the line, and we are going to try to do our part this side of the Rockies to save Hetch-Hetchy and the whole Park intact as a virgin. and furthermore, try to have such legislation passed as will forestall and effectually prevent any future attempts at vandalism on any of our National Parks.

I am glad to have met you even in correspondence, and wish you the best.

Very truly yours,

J. R. Branson.

Mr. John Muir. Author. Scientist, Explorer,

*I want to save these inimitable Auroral letters.*  
*Dear Colby You will see by the above that the "abominable Bill of scheme" seems doomed, & the whole Park is to be saved "intact-as-a-virgin"*  
*Martin's California.*  
*Thanks for Mr Marshall's message on these Parks etc*