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Dear Mr.Ramesh,

I was delighted to hear of your appointment as the Minister of State for Environment & Forests, Government of India. I wish you the very best in this important and challenging assignment.

I write this mail with specific reference to a 2 X 200 MW Hydro electric project at Gundia, near Sakleshpur, Karnataka, right on the Western Ghats. The project is now being considered for environment clearance. While the Karnataka Power Corporation has underestimated the extent of damage that will be caused to the ecosystem by the project, most local people believe that over a 1000 acres of pristine, priceless forest and agricultural land will be destroyed.

As you know, the Western Ghats is one of the 18 bio-diversity hotspots on the Planet - we cannot, and should not, allow such wanton destruction.

Instead of encouraging such energy generation, can you please advise the Karnataka Government to focus on energy conservation by means such as providing quality CFL bulbs to rural homes at subsidised rates ? There is established data to prove that such a conservation measure would more than obviate the need for destructive power generation planned at Gundia. I also request that your ministry deny environment clearance to this project, in the larger interests of the people of Karnataka and India.

I am deeply grateful for your attention to this matter.