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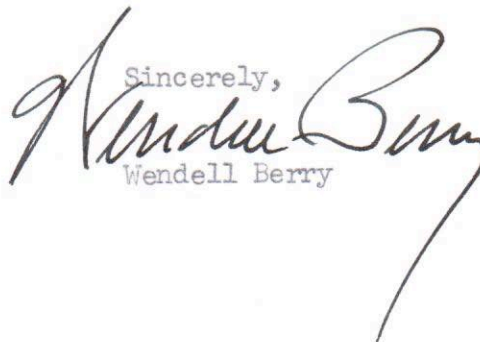
To interested persons at Echoing Green:

I have known Sara Day Evans for thirty-seven years. She is steady, courageous, and persistent in dealing with problems and responsibilities, and she has been admirably loyal, year after year, to her family and friends. Her work over many years has a long^{er} term basis both in the needs to which it is addressed, and in her long-term personal commitment and enthusiasm. She is smart, persistent, and well able to involved other people in her effort.

What interests and pleases me most is her interest in founding the local economies of central Appalachia and other needy and neglected rural areas upon the local land, people, and resources. This seems to me to be far more promising than the ever-popular political scheme of "bringing in industry." The problem is that industries submit to being "brought in" only in response to costly public "incentives," and typically for the purpose of exploiting the local land and people.

I have in mind the history of Fruit of the Loom, which came to Russell Springs, Ky., with a fanfare of charity and neighborliness, but really (of course) to cheapen production. They departed from Russell Springs (of course) as soon as it became possible to cheapen production elsewhere. To this I prefer, with obvious good reason, Sara Day's efforts to improve the local economies of agriculture and forestry.

Sincerely,



Wendell Berry

WE/tb