



United States Department of State

*Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and
International Environmental and Scientific Affairs*

Washington, D.C. 20520

MAY 12 2009

Dear Ms. Bau:

I would like to join Ambassador Simons in congratulating members of the Government of Chile, and specifically the National Forestry Corporation (CONAF), on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Chile's emblematic national park, Torres del Paine. Torres del Paine, a World Heritage Site, is not only a treasure for Chile, but also for the world. I fully expect that participants joining the anniversary celebration will be in awe of the majesty of the Park. The creation of Torres del Paine took immense effort from many dedicated people. The Park represents Chile's dedication to conservation and the protection of biodiversity and habitat. In addition to hiking trails in a stunning landscape, the tens of thousands of Americans who visit the Park each year benefit from the Park's efforts to educate visitors and promote a heightened awareness of the environment.

On behalf of the Bureau of Oceans, Environment and Science, it has been a pleasure to work with and support the park rangers, CONAF personnel, and others who manage and preserve this important environment. And it is an honor and a privilege for our nation to collaborate with you through environmental cooperation initiatives such as the Sister Parks Agreement between Torres del Paine and Yosemite National Parks, the trail building of the Conservation Visitors International Program from California, and the nascent English for Parks project, among others.

We congratulate you on the 50th anniversary of one of Chile's most prized natural treasures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reno L. Harnish". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Reno L. Harnish
Acting