
Collection Summary

Creator: Costle, Douglas M., 1939-

Title: Douglas M. Costle Papers

Dates: 1968-2001

Quantity: 58 linear feet, 7 linear inches

Identification:
   Accession Number: 02-04
   National Archives Identifier: 587338

Scope and Content:
The material in the collection covers Douglas M. Costle’s work with various environmental causes and organizations, particularly the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The collection contains correspondence, speeches, notes, reports, news clippings, oral histories, publications, legal and financial documents, campaign material, and miscellaneous printed material. This material relates to Costle’s work as EPA Director from 1977-1981; as Senior Staff Associate, Environmental and Natural Resources, for the President's Advisory Council on Executive Organization (Ash Council) from 1968-1972; and as Deputy Commissioner, then Commissioner, of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection from 1972-1975.

In addition, this collection contains material related to Costle’s 1994 U.S. Senate campaign in Vermont.

Creator Information: Douglas M. Costle
Douglas Costle was born July 27, 1939 in Long Beach, California. He received an A.B. from Harvard University in 1961, and a J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School in 1964. From 1964-1965, he was a trial attorney for the Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, and from 1965-67, he served as attorney for the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

In 1967 he was associate attorney for the law firm of Kelso, Cotton, Seligman and Ray in San Francisco, and from 1968-69 was a senior associate at the urban policy planning law
firm of Marshall Kaplan, Gans and Kahn, in the same city. From December 1969 to December 1970 he was Senior Staff Associate, Environmental and Natural Resources, for the President's Advisory Council on Executive Organization, where he headed the study which recommended the creation of EPA.

In 1971, Costle was a Fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. From January 1972 to July 1975 he was Deputy Commissioner, then Commissioner, of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. From March to July 1975 he was also a consultant to EPA on land use policies. From July 1975 to 1977, he was Assistant Director for Natural Resources and Commerce at the U.S. Congressional Budget Office, and prior to his EPA nomination was on President Carter's transition team for government organization.

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed Costle as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, a position in which he served until 1981. As EPA administrator, Costle chaired the U.S. Regulatory Council and was President Carter's representative to NATO's Committee on the Challenges to a Modern Society and the United States Chair of the U.S. /U.S.S.R. Joint Committee on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection. He also served as the chair of the U.S./People's Republic of China Environmental Protection Protocol.

After leaving the EPA, Costle served as dean of the Vermont Law School from 1987 to 1991. With Vermont Governor Madeleine Kunin, he helped to found the Institute for Sustainable Communities in 1991, a non-profit organization that builds environmental, economic and social infrastructure in existing and emerging democracies around the world. In 1994, Costle vied for Vermont's Democratic Party nomination to the United States Senate, losing in a primary to Jan Backus.

Restrictions:
Restrictions on Access: These papers contain documents restricted in accordance with applicable executive order(s), which governs National Security policies, applicable statutes/agency restrictions, and material which has been closed in accordance with the donor’s deed of gift.

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Related Material:
Separated material: Photographs

Index Terms:
Limited to major topics under each category
Persons: Doug Costle, Jan Backus, President Jimmy Carter, Roy Ash
Organizations: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Regulatory Council, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT-DEP), Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Ash Council

Subjects: Environmental issues, acid rain, energy, foreign travel, regulatory reform, clean air, congressional and senate hearings, 1994 senate campaign


Types of Material: Correspondence, speeches, notes, reports, news clippings, oral histories, publications, campaign material, legal and financial documents, and miscellaneous print material.

Administrative Information:
Preferred citation: [Type of Document], [Names of Sender and Recipient or Title of Document], [Date], [Collection Title], [Series Title], [Folder Title], [Box Number], Jimmy Carter Presidential Library.

Acquisition information: These donated historical materials were received under provisions of the instrument of gift that Elizabeth Costle signed on February 6, 2002 and August 15, 2003.

Processing information: The collection was opened in September, 2015.

System of Arrangement:

The records of the Doug Costle Papers are divided into six series:

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Detailed Description of the Collection

Doug Costle’s Subject Files
Scope and Content: Containers 1-65. This series was opened in 2015. This series consists of correspondence, memoranda, notes, briefing papers, legal documents, and other printed material. The bulk of this series focuses on Doug Costle’s tenure as director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Most of his work focused on environmental issues such as acid rain,
energy, pollution, and hazardous waste. Also included are materials related to Costle’s work after
the EPA, particularly as Dean of Vermont Law School and his partnership with Vermont
Governor Madeleine Kunin through the Institute for Sustainable Communities. Arranged
alphabetically by folder title.

**Doug Costle’s U.S. Regulatory Council Files**
Scope and Content: Containers 66-73. This series was opened in 2015. This series consists of
correspondence, memoranda, notes, briefing papers, legal documents, reports, and other printed
material. The material in this series relates to Doug Costle’s role as Chairman of the U.S.

**Doug Costle’s Ash Council Files**
Scope and Content: Containers 74-95. This series was opened in 2015. This series consists of
correspondence, memoranda, notes, briefing papers, legal documents, and other printed
material. The material relates to Costle’s work on the Ash Council. The Ash Council was commissioned
by President Richard Nixon in 1969, and was led by Roy Ash. Its purpose was to study whether
all federal environmental activities should be unified under one agency. The final report issued
by the commission led to the creation of EPA. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

**Doug Costle’s Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Files**
Scope and Content: Containers 96-106. This series was opened in 2015. This series contains
correspondence, memoranda, reports, notes, briefing papers, legal documents, and other printed
material. The material relates to Doug Costle’s tenure as Deputy Commissioner and
Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Arranged
alphabetically by folder title.

**Doug Costle’s Senate Campaign Files**
Scope and Content: Containers 107-113. This series was opened in 2015. This series consists of
correspondence, memoranda, notes, briefing papers, legal documents, campaign material, and
other printed material. The material relates to Doug Costle’s 1994 primary campaign for senator
in Vermont. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

**Doug Costle’s Speech Files**
Scope and Content: Containers 114-134. This series was opened in 2015. This series contains
speeches, speech drafts, background information, travel/trip information, and conference
material. The material includes speeches from the early seventies through the late nineties. The
majority of this material relates to his expertise regarding environmental issues and causes. Some
of the speeches have no dates or are categorized as various. Arranged chronologically.

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