

An Ode to Boardwalks  
Diane Callahan

Perhaps I shouldn't encourage  
the intrusion of man into nature,  
yet the firm planks under my feet  
turn me into an observer, a visitor,  
an explorer who needn't travel  
far from comfort to be wild—not  
to be one with the wild but to feel  
I belong there, I am permitted,  
even though we mark the end of wildness.