

March 12, 2018

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Local Support for Inventoried Roadless Area Protections in Washington State

Dear Senator Murray:

We are writing to express our strong support for protecting our national forest roadless areas -- incredible landscapes like South Quinault Ridge, Dark Divide, Abercrombie Hooknose, Liberty Bell (Methow Headwaters), Upper Tucannon and Boulder River here in Washington State. Over the last year local and national threats have emerged that threaten existing protections for roadless areas.

In Washington State, a diverse and strong coalition of conservation, recreation, wildlife, faith-based and local economic and political leaders have recognized the values of the nearly two million acres of national forest roadless areas statewide. These unroaded, unlogged, old-growth, high-functioning ecosystems account for just 22% of the more than 9 million acres of national forests within Washington State. Many roadless areas are adjacent to large unroaded sections of Mount Rainier, Olympic and North Cascades National Parks providing large areas of contiguous wildlife habitat and ecological integrity. Additionally, many feel an obligation to protect these wild places as evidence of God's creation.

Between 1999 and 2001, the National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) was established as part of one of the largest rulemakings in the history of the federal government. The Forest Service held more than 600 public meetings nationwide, including 28 throughout Washington State. More than 1.6 million Americans submitted comments, including more than 80,000 comments from Washington State citizens during the draft rule comment period. More than 95% of comments submitted were in support of protecting roadless areas. According to a March 2000 opinion poll, more than 72% of all Washington residents supported the complete protection of these last remaining wild areas of their national forests.

The Roadless Rule outlined common sense balanced protections that are appropriate for managing and retaining Washington's roadless forests. At its heart, it is focused on prohibiting new road construction in those areas of our national forests that are currently unroaded. The Rule does not close existing roads or trails or change current access for hikers, cyclists, paddlers, climbers, campers and other recreational users. The policy also has common sense provisions allowing for emergency road building to protect public health and safety during natural disasters.

The Rule preserved critical habitat for more than 1,500 species of fish and wildlife, including many threatened and endangered species while also safeguarding sources of clean and safe drinking water for millions of Americans. In Washington, roadless areas such as the Quilcene, Glacier Peak Adjacent, Boulder River Adjacent, Mt. Baker West, McDonald and Alpine Lakes

Adjacent all protect the headwaters and source of municipal drinking water supplies for the local communities that include, but are not limited to, Port Townsend, Sequim, Bellingham, Everett and Leavenworth.

The Roadless Rule also maintains current public access and recreational opportunities, including hiking, camping, horseback riding, climbing, hunting and fishing. Roadless areas provide world class recreation opportunities as well as family accessible outings that fuel local economies. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, 72% of Washingtonians participate in outdoor recreation each year, generating \$26.2 billion in consumer spending and more than 200,000 jobs.¹

Many of our organizations spent years defending the Roadless Rule from an administrative effort to weaken and eliminate roadless protections throughout the West in the 2000's. Through grassroots advocacy and citizen mobilization, that effort was met with the same broad and deep support for these pristine landscapes as was evident in the original rulemaking. For nearly two decades the Roadless Rule has protected the conservation, recreation and wildlife values that play such a large role in the quality of life we all enjoy here in the Pacific Northwest.

However, over the last year we have become increasingly concerned about legislative provisions and administrative proposals that would violate or threaten roadless forests.

Nationally, the current Senate appropriations bill for fiscal year 2018 includes a rider that would exempt the Tongass and Chugach National Forest in Alaska from the Roadless Rule. Both the nature of this rider and the direct attack on roadless forests is of great concern. Furthermore, the House of Representatives on November 1, 2017 passed the "Resilient Federal Forests Act," which would allow Forest Service logging projects within inventoried roadless areas, thus undermining the Roadless Rule.

Locally, at least two administrative proposals on the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest here in Washington State have emerged threatening inventoried roadless areas. First, in the fall of 2017, the Forest Service approved a proposed expansion of the Swen Larsen olivine quarry into the Mt. Baker West Inventoried Roadless Area despite significant opposition during both comment periods and a formal objection. The proposal would obliterate the old growth forests and other values leaving only bare rock. Second, in December, the Forest Service proposed constructing a new road through the Mt. Baker North Inventoried Roadless Area as part of a redevelopment of the Excelsior Mine near Mt. Baker. There is concern locally about additional proposals that would violate roadless areas protected by the Roadless Rule.

Please vote against any legislative efforts to weaken or eliminate roadless forest protection under the Roadless Rule, including the Alaska-based Tongass National Forest and roadless area riders attached to the FY 2018 Interior Appropriations bill. Additionally, please speak out against any administrative efforts to weaken or eliminate roadless area protections. Current and future generations of Washingtonians will thank you.

Sincerely,

¹ https://outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/OIA_RecEcoState_WA.pdf

Tom Uniack
Executive Director
Washington Wild

Chuck Cheshire
President
Vancouver Wildlife League

Ben Greuel
Washington State Director
The Wilderness Society

Matt Little
Executive Director
Cascade Forest Conservancy

Mark Boyar
President
Middle Fork Outdoor Recreation Coalition

Andrea Matzke
Executive Director
Wild Washington Rivers

Timothy Manns
Conservation Chair
Skagit Audubon Society

Gus Bekker
President
El Sendero Backcountry Ski & Snowshoe Club

Karl Forsgaard
President
Alpine Lakes Protection Society

Don Parks
Co-Chair, National Forest Committee
Washington Chapter of the Sierra Club

Ann Darlington
President
The Friends of Heybrook Ridge

R.D. Grunbaum
President
Friends of Grays Harbor

David Sullivan
Commissioner
Jefferson County Commission

Mark Taylor
President
Bellevue-Issaquah Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Kathy Johnson
Forest Practices Chair
Pilchuck Audubon Society

Tom Hammond
President
North Cascades Conservation Council

Art Campbell
President
North Central Washington Audubon Society

Mike Petersen
Executive Director
The Lands Council

Pam Borso
President
North Cascades Audubon Society

Rev. Roberta Rominger*
Pastor
Congregational Church (UCC) on Mercer Island.

Megan Friesen
Conservation Manager
Seattle Audubon Society

Mark Leed
Chair
Sierra Club - Loo Wit Group

Jeff Howell
Co-Founder/Owner
Counterbalance Brewing Company

Rev. Michael Denton*
Conference Minister
Pacific Northwest Conference of The United
Church of Christ

Rod Dembowski
Councilmember
Metropolitan King County Council – District 1

Kelsey, Ben, Liz & Craig Curran
Owners
Watershed Pub & Kitchen

Terry Frost
President
Lower Columbia Flyfishers

Dave Werntz
Science & Conservation Director
Conservation Northwest

Rob Smith
Northwest Regional Director
National Parks Conservation Association

Ron Force
President
Palouse Audubon Society

Brian de Place
Executive Director
Methow Valley Citizens Council

Mitsu Iwasaki
Executive Director
Northwest Outward Bound School

Jon Hoekstra
Executive Director
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Joseph Bogaard
Executive Director
Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition

David Kliegman
Executive Director
Okanogan Highlands Alliance

Sam Merrill
Conservation Committee Chair
Black Hills Audubon Society

Connie Gallant
President
Olympic Forest Coalition

Brian Stan
Co-Founder
Old Stove Brewing Company (Seattle)

Sam Largent
Owner
Flatstick Pub (Seattle)

Raymond Kwan & Barry Chan
Co-Founders
Lucky Envelope Brewing (Seattle)

Haley Keller
Co-Owner, Finance & Retail Operations
Peddler Brewing Company (Seattle)

Inessa Pearce
President
Sky Valley Environmental & Economic Alliance

Phil Powers
CEO
American Alpine Club

John McGlenn
President
Washington Wildlife Federation

Griffin Williams
Head Brewer/Founder
Flying Lion Brewing (Seattle)

Mari Kemper
Co-Owner/Founder
Chuckanut Brewery (Bellingham)

Sara Nelson
Co-Owner/Founder
Fremont Brewing (Seattle)

Mike Town
President
Friends of Wild Sky

Marlies Wierenga
Pacific NW Conservation Manager
WildEarth Guardians

Rich Simms
Founder/Board Member
Wild Steelhead Coalition

Andrea Imler
Director of Advocacy
Washington Trails Association

Joe Sambataro
Northwest Regional Director
Access Fund

Jim Athearn
President
Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club

Marley Rall
Founder
The Brewmaster's Taproom (Renton)

Donna Osseward
President
Olympic Park Associates

Diane Bachen
President
Kitsap Audubon Society

Peter Bahls
Director
Northwest Watershed Institute

Julie Burman
President
Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Society

Brad W Throssell
Chairman
Washington Council of Trout Unlimited

Judy Hallisey
President
Kittitas Audubon Society

Sen. Jamie Pedersen
Senator (District 43)
Washington State Senate

Gail Gatton
VP & Executive Director
Audubon Washington

Jan McGruder
President
Eastside Audubon

Russell Everett
Brewmaster
Bainbridge Brewing (Bainbridge Island)

Bill Arnott
Owner/ Brewer Manager
Machine House Brewery (Seattle)

Robert Brenlin
Founder
Latona Pub (Seattle)

Randy Embernate & John A. Guinn
Owners
Hellbent Brewing (Seattle)

Arnie Martin
President
Grays Harbor Audubon Society

LeeAnne Beres
Executive Director
Earth Ministry

Conrad Gowell
River Steward Program Director
Native Fish Society

Jill Silver
Executive Director
10,000 years Institute

Yvonne Kraus
Executive Director
Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance

The Rev. Leland Seese
Mount Baker Park Presbyterian Church
Seattle, WA*

Michael Davis
President
Mt. Baker Club

Karen Sullivan
Co-Founder
West Coast Action Alliance

Dana Ward
Conservation Chair
Lower Columbia Audubon Society

Jon Luthanen
President
North Sound Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Rev. David Valera
Executive Director of Connectional Ministries
Pacific NW Conference, United Methodist Church

Eric Bjorkman
President
Vancouver Audubon Society

Heather Gibson
President
Rainier Audubon Society

Pamela Brulotte
Owner
Icicle Brewing Company (Leavenworth)

Greg Haller
Conservation Director
Pacific Rivers Council

Lisa Remlinger
Evergreen Forests Program Director
Washington Environmental Council

Timothy J Coleman
Executive Director,
Kettle Range Conservation Group

Joe McDermott
Councilmember
Metropolitan King County Council – District 8

Robert “Beaux” Bowman
Founder/Co-Owner
Black Raven Brewing Company (Redmond)

Brad Benson, Lara Zahaba & Robyn Schumacher
Co-Owners
Stoup Brewing (Seattle)

Chris Howard
Conservation Chair
Blue Mountain Audubon (Walla Walla)

Kevin Quinn
Owner
Bale Breaker Brewing Company (Yakima)

Chris Smith
Owner
Lowercase Brewing (Seattle)

William Pope
Owner
Mazama Country Inn

Larry Brandt
President
Willapa Hills Audubon Society

Art Wolfe
Owner
Art Wolfe, Inc

Carl Johnson
President
WA State Council of Fly Fishers International

Barry Blevins
Brewery Representative
Diamond Knot Craft Brewing (Everett)

Tony Luciano
Owner & Head Brewer
Stones Throw Brewery (Bellingham)

Hilary Hart
President
Spokane Falls Trout Unlimited

Craig Lenske
Director
NOLS Pacific Northwest

Wendy McDermott
Director, Rivers of Puget Sound/Columbia Basin
American Rivers

Karen Sullivan
Co-Founder
West Coast Action Alliance

Judith Akins
Chair
Mt Baker Group Sierra Club

Matt Perkins
Co-Founder
Washington Climbers Coalition

Greg Shimek
President
Puget Sound Flyfishers

David Kappler
Vice president for Advocacy
Issaquah Alps Trails Club

Mike O'Brien
Councilmember
Seattle City Council

Rev. Penelope Guntermann
Retired Pastor
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America*

John Bohrnsen
President
Clark-Skamanian Flyfishers

Bruce Wick
President
Icicle Outfitters & Guides (Leavenworth)

Larry Gossett
Councilmember
Metropolitan King County Council – District 2

Annie Cubberly, Leader
Polly Dyer Cascadia Great Old Broads for
Wilderness

Sally Bagshaw
Councilmember
Seattle City Council

Janet Marx
President
North Olympic Group – Sierra Club

Richard Jahnke
President
Admiralty Audubon Society

Carolyn Leon
Chair
Upper Columbia River Group of the Sierra Club

Phyllis Farrell
Chair
South Sound Group Sierra Club

Colleen Kuehl
Owner
Wander Brewing (Bellingham)

Bill Drenguis
President
Yakima Valley Audubon Society

Bob Phreaner
President
Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society

Wanda Clifford
Executive Director
Inland Northwest Wildlife Council

Donna Broers
President
Yakima Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Alex Dittmar
Founder/ President
Airways Brewing (Kent)

Eric Brown
Trail Director
Whatcom Mountain Bike Alliance

Olivia Holderman
President
Kilckitat Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Pat Finnegan
President
Clearwater-Snake River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Rita Kenny
Owner
Winthrop Mountain Sports

Chris Tompkins
Treasurer
Northshore Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Maj. Gen. (Ret) Paul Eaton
Managing Director
Vet Voice Foundation

Tim Cooley
President
Fidalgo Fly Fishers

Lisa Herbold
Councilmember
Seattle City Council

James Munly
General Manager
Leavenworth Winter Sports Club

Jason Shrum
Co-Owner/ Marketing & Sales/Distribution
Bad Jimmy's Brewing Co

Kevin Klein
Founder
NW Peaks Brewery

Jeanne Kohl-Welles
Councilmember
Metropolitan King County Council – District 4

The Rev. Richard C. Weyls
Rector
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Chris and Lori Engdahl
Founders/Co-Owners
Lantern Brewing LLC

Chris Moore
Executive Director
Washington Trust for Historic Preservation

John Race
President - IFMGA Mountain Guide
Northwest Mountain School (Leavenworth)

Kshama Sawant
Councilmember
Seattle City Council

Jim Rhodes
President
Nooksack Nordic Ski Club

Jeff Kish
Executive Director
Pacific Northwest Trail Association

James Moore
Owner
Orion Expeditions (Leavenworth)

Catherine Willard
President
Lake Chelan Nordic Club

Shawna Lambert
Owner
Slippery Pig Brewery (Poulsbo)

Sen. Christine Rolfes
Senator (District 23)
Washington State Senate

Dave Upthegrove
Council Member
Metropolitan King County Council - District 5

Sen. Bob Hasegawa
Senator (District 43)
Washington State Senate

Duane Bolser
Owner (Retired)
Leavenworth Outfitters

Jack Lamb
CEO
Aslan Brewing Company (Bellingham)

Cheryl McKenney
Owner
Leavenworth Mountain Sports

Rev. Anne Hall
Former Pastor
Lutheran Church in the San Juans*

Harry Lane
President
Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers

*Affiliations for identifications purposes only