

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 1, 2001

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HORN, BOEHLERT AND FELLOW REPUBLICANS URGE PRESIDENT TO UPHOLD ROADLESS AREA RULE

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 1, 2001) – U.S. Representatives Steve Horn (R-CA) and Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) today released a letter to President Bush, signed by 20 of their fellow conservation-minded Republican colleagues, urging the administration to move forward with the rule to protect 60 million acres of roadless areas in our nation's forests.

"I understand and respect the Bush administration's need to carefully review all decisions made by the previous administration," Horn said. "However, as the May 4th deadline for the administration to release its position on the roadless area conservation rule swiftly approaches, I am troubled by the increasing reports that the administration may not uphold the rule."

"Our National Forests are a resource belonging to all Americans. Protecting the roadless areas in these places of beauty is not about politics, it is about preserving some of the most pristine natural resources in our nation. Over half of the Forest Service's 191 million acres already are available for logging, mining, and other types of development. We need to do what we can now to safeguard what is left of these remaining areas, so that people can continue to enjoy the abundant supply of clean drinking water, wildlife, and unique opportunities for recreational activities for generations to come.

"That is why my Republican colleagues and I are asking President Bush to move forward with the roadless area conservation rule in its current form. The administration can not and should not ignore the overwhelming public support for this measure. We urge the administration to vigorously defend the rule in court before allowing a decision to be made that could cause irreversible harm to some of our nation's most magnificent natural resources. We look forward to working together with the administration to ensure the rule's implementation."

Boehlert said, "This rule went through an extensive review that drew more than one million comments, and it is clearly keeping with the viewpoint that a majority of Americans in all parts of our country share concerning our national forests. I believe our forests should be open to multiple uses, but we still must protect the last remaining pristine areas."

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 28, 2001

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

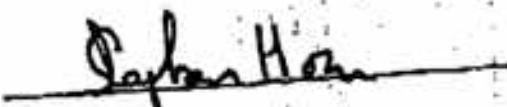
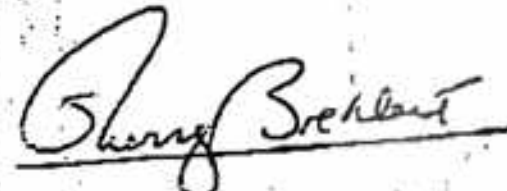

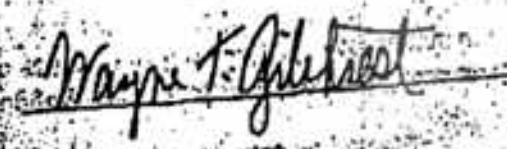
We are writing to urge you to move forward with the rule protecting roadless areas in our national forests. This rule has already been subjected to lengthy and exhaustive reviews that took into account more than a million public comments. The Administration should put the rule in force and vigorously defend it in court.

The roadless rule is not extreme. It is broadly supported by Republican-minded sportsmen and conservation groups. And surveys by Republican pollsters indicate that the rule has broad support among all elements of the American public. A poll last year by Linda DiVall found that more than 70 percent of the public in each and every region of the country supported the rule. Republican support was more than 60 percent.

The roadless rule will not shut down logging in our national forests or increase the risk of fire. But the rule will protect for future generations the relatively few stands in our national forests that remain untrammled. This seems to us to be a reasonable step in the public interest, one predicated on the understanding that our national forests have multiple uses.

We look forward to working with you to develop moderate approaches to difficult natural resource issues.

Sincerely,

Russ Simmons

Sue Kelley

James Greenwood

Jim Lamb

Fr Lo Bando

Tommy

Vernon Allen

Jack Lusin

Clara Kim

Mary Roukema

Gene Myrtle

Chick Stapp

John Foyan

Jim Ranter

Mike Castle

Ann Light

Don Gilman

Chris Smith
