



# *COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*

## *Office of the Governor*

Timothy M. Kaine  
Governor

March 1, 2006

The Honorable Mike Johanns  
Secretary of Agriculture

The Honorable Mark Rey  
Undersecretary of Natural Resources and Environment

The Honorable Dale Bosworth  
Chief of the United States Forest Service  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Gentlemen:

I write to support Virginia's pending petition seeking full protection for inventoried roadless areas in the national forests in the Commonwealth. The petition, a copy of which is enclosed, requests that you adopt a regulation protecting all the national forest system inventoried roadless areas in the Commonwealth in accordance with the provisions of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

I can assure you that Virginia's change in administration has not changed our commitment to protecting our national forests.

Virginia's national forests provide economic and recreational activities for our citizens, and they are an integral part of the Commonwealth's history and character. National forest designations protect places in the Commonwealth that provide unique wildlife habitat as well as opportunities for hiking, fishing, and hunting. This petition requests important protections for the roadless areas of these forests.

I would also respectfully request that, while the petition is under review and until the time when a protective rule has been adopted, you not propose any projects, such as roadbuilding or logging, or development activities that could affect the roadless qualities of these areas.

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Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to working with you to develop a balanced rule that will provide full protection for Virginia's inventoried roadless areas.

Sincerely,



Timothy M. Kaine

TMK/spg

c: The Honorable Robert S. Bloxom  
Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry  
The Honorable L. Preston Bryant, Jr.  
Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources