

U.S. House of Representatives

Congressman Sherwood Boehlert

New York's 24th District

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PRESS RELEASE

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BOEHLERT TO RE-INTRODUCE NATIONAL FOREST ROADLESS LEGISLATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-New Hartford) today announced the re-introduction of his National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act. This legislation will make the “roadless Rule” into federal law, which would protect roadless areas in national forests. While the roadless rule is currently in force, the policy faces a number of administrative and judicial challenges. Boehlert’s legislation would ensure that the roadless rule remains the law of the land.

“The National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act will not only make the roadless rule the law of the land, but it will also ensure that America’s beautiful forests are preserved for future generations to enjoy,” Boehlert said. “The strong support across America for this critical legislation outlines the need to make this law permanent.”

This environmental legislation would permanently protect nearly sixty million acres of pristine National Forest lands from logging, mining, and drilling, except in cases where the logging is necessary to protect forest health, to improve habitat for endangered species or to reduce fire danger. The lands will remain open for recreational use including hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and the use of snowmobiles and dirt bikes.

The Forest Service held 600 public meetings and hearings across the country on every national forest. The agency received overwhelmingly support for preserving roadless areas. A poll of hunters commissioned by the Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Alliance found that 83% of hunters favor keeping existing roadless areas in national forests in their current roadless state. According to a recent poll, 67% of voters favor the roadless rule.