

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2001

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Mr. President:

By May 4, 2001, your Administration must publicly articulate its policy on the protection of roadless areas in our national forests. There are few public land issues of greater import to the majority of Americans. Many of us in Congress care deeply about carefully managing America's critical natural resources and protecting the remaining pristine areas in our national forests. The Roadless Area Conservation Policy finalized by the Forest Service on January 12, 2001 represents a balanced, scientifically based, publicly supported policy. We strongly urge you to immediately implement the policy as finalized, without exceptions or loopholes.

As you know, the Roadless Area Conservation Policy will protect 58.5 million acres of pristine national forest land. This balanced policy protects the remaining pristine regions of our national forests from logging, mining, and energy exploration, while allowing those activities to proceed on the majority of national forest lands. Currently, our national forests contain over 383,000 miles of roads. The forest conservation policy does not limit public access on the current road infrastructure or regulate off-road vehicle use. Nor does the policy limit recreation opportunities. The policy does allow the Forest Service to concentrate its efforts on addressing the tremendous maintenance backlog instead of constructing expensive and controversial new roads which will add to the maintenance burden in the future.

America's leading scientists have repeatedly informed us that the roadless portions of our national forests are not only the most significant habitat for fish and wildlife, but are critical sources of clean drinking water for over 60 million Americans. As our population grows and open space succumbs to development, watersheds on public lands are increasingly important.

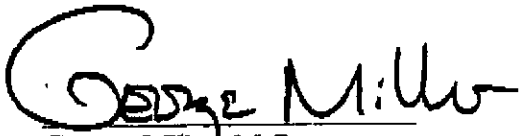
The forest conservation policy is the result of an unprecedented public input process and has overwhelming public support. Claims by opponents of this policy that it is just an 11th hour regulation by the previous Administration are unfounded. The debate over roadless area management has been fought in the courts and the Congress for over 30 years. The path towards an affirmative policy on roadless area management began in January 1998 with the Forest Service's announcement of a proposed road-building moratorium. The final policy released on January 12, 2001 received more public comment than any other federal rulemaking process in our nation's history. It is a product of over 600 public meetings, including several in every single

national forest in the nation. At its conclusion, the agency had received input from over 1.6 million Americans, the vast majority of whom supported the policy, with a remarkable level of support for the inclusion of the Tongass National Forest in Alaska.

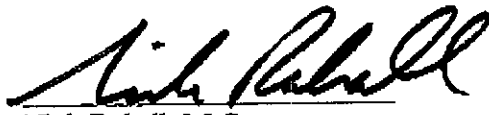
The Roadless Area Conservation Policy is not a partisan issue. It is about the future of our national forests and our ability as a nation to manage them in a sustainable manner and to the benefit of all the diverse interests who seek their use. We implore you not to cash in on the short-term and short-sighted opportunity to extract resources from our pristine forests in a manner that will permanently diminish them. Instead, we urge you to take the opportunity now before you to preserve these forests for future generations.

We appreciate your consideration of our views and we look forward to working with you to ensure that America's great forest legacy will be preserved.

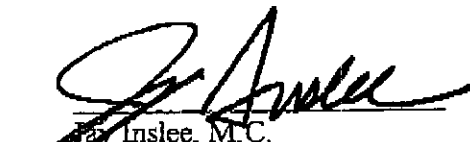
Sincerely,


George Miller, M.C.


Richard Gephardt, M.C.

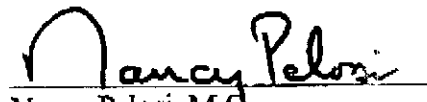

Nick Rahall, M.C.



David Bonior, M.C.


Jay Inslee, M.C.

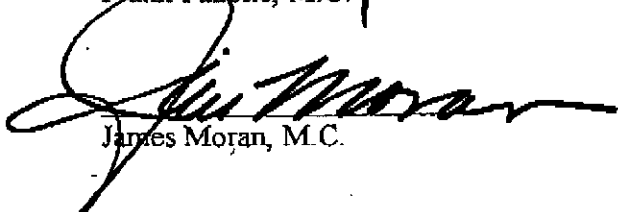

Henry Waxman, M.C.

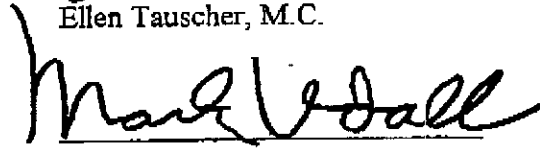

Maurice Hinchey, M.C.

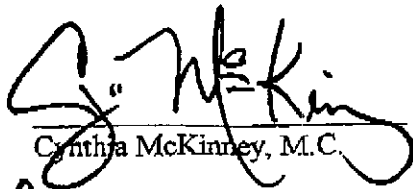

Nancy Pelosi, M.C.

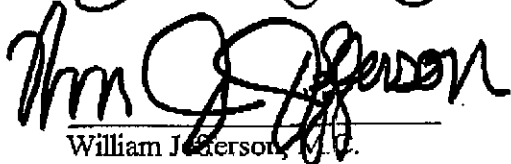

Frank Pallone, M.C.


Ellen Tauscher, M.C.



James Moran, M.C.


Mark Udall, M.C.


Cynthia McKinney, M.C.

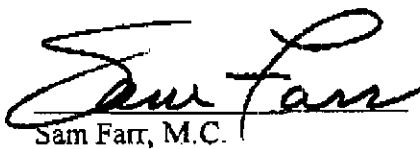

William Jefferson, M.C.

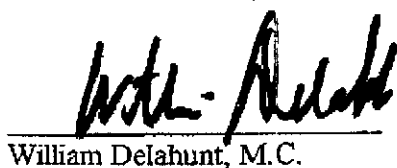

Lloyd Doggett, M.C.

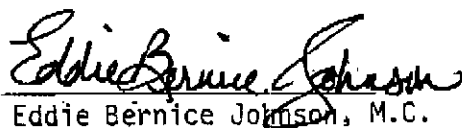

John Lewis, M.C.

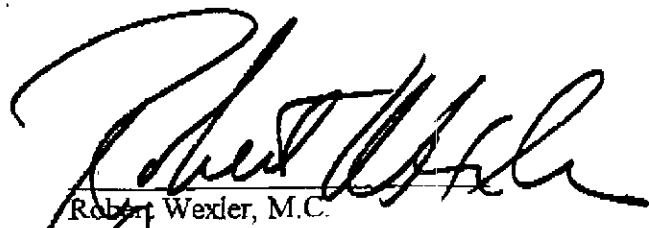

William Clay, M.C.

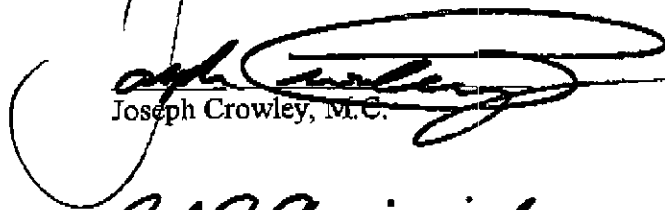

Betty McCollum, M.C.


Sam Farr, M.C.


William Delahunt, M.C.

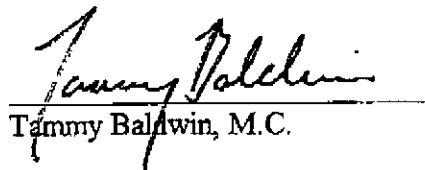

Eddie Bernice Johnson, M.C.


Robert Wexler, M.C.


Joseph Crowley, M.C.


Rod Blagojevich, M.C.

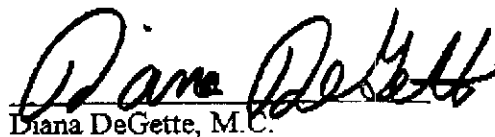

Patrick Kennedy, M.C.


Tammy Baldwin, M.C.


Jim McDermott, M.C.


Danny Davis, M.C.


Earl Blumenauer, M.C.


Diana DeGette, M.C.

Lynn Woolsey
Lynn Woolsey, M.C.

Ed Towns
Edolphus Towns, M.C.

Robert T. Matsui
Robert T. Matsui, M.C.

Maxine Waters
Maxine Waters, M.C.

Bart Gordon
Bart Gordon, M.C.

Jerrold Nadler
Jerrold Nadler, M.C.

Alice L. Hastings
Alice Hastings, M.C.

Lane Evans
Lane Evans, M.C.

Eva M. Clayton
Eva M. Clayton, M.C.

Rosa DeLauró
Rosa DeLauró, M.C.

Edward J. Markey
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Barney Frank
Barney Frank, M.C.

Bob Filner
Bob Filner, M.C.

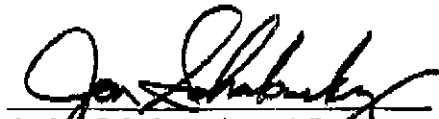
Robert A. Borski
Robert A. Borski, M.C.


Sherrod Brown
Sherrod Brown, M.C.

James R. Langevin
James R. Langevin, M.C.


Dennis J. Kucinich
Dennis J. Kucinich, M.C.


Luis Gutierrez
Luis Gutierrez, M.C.


Janice Schakowsky, M.C.



Shelley Berkley, M.C.


James David Matheson, M.C.
Jim



Albert Wynn, M.C.


Charles A. Gonzalez, M.C.


Dennis Moore, M.C.


Harold E. Ford, Jr., M.C.

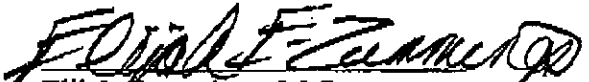

Loretta L. Sanchez, M.C.


Xavier Becerra, M.C.


Neil Abercrombie, M.C.


Steven R. Rothman, M.C.

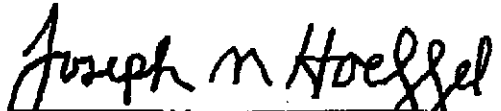

Darlene Hooley, M.C.

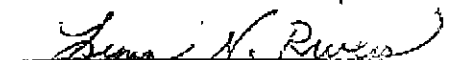

Elijah Cummings, M.C.

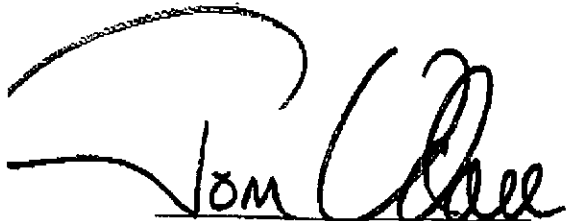

John B. Larson, M.C.



David Wu, M.C.


Lois Capps, M.C.


Joseph M. Hoeffel, M.C.

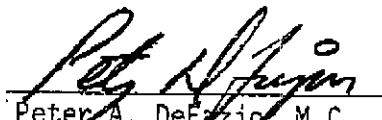

Lynn Rivers, M.C.


Tom Udall, M.C.


Michael Capuano, M.C.


Charles Rangel, M.C.

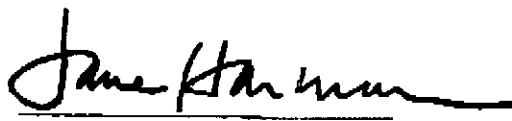

Steny Hoyer, M.C.

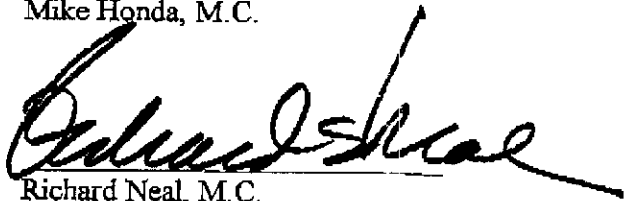

Peter A. DeFazio, M.C.


Adam Schiff, M.C.

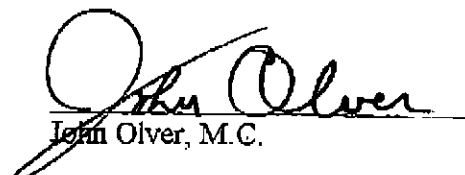

Tom Allen, M.C.


Mike Honda, M.C.


Jane Harman, M.C.

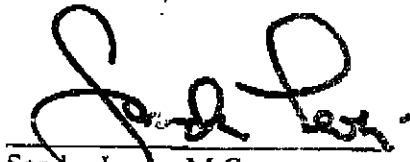

Richard Neal, M.C.



Anna Eshoo, M.C.

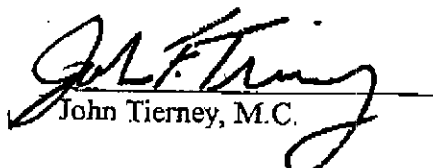

John Olver, M.C.

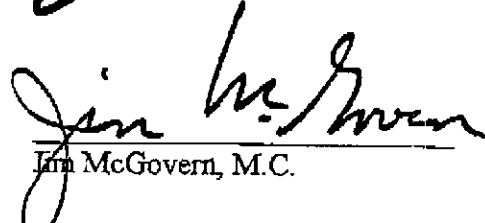

Barbara Lee, M.C.

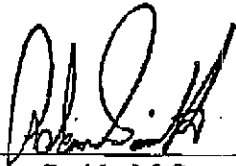

Juanita Millender-McDonald, M.C.


Sander Levin, M.C.

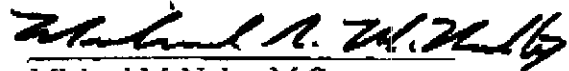

Bob Clement, M.C.


John Tierney, M.C.


Jim McGovern, M.C.



Adam Smith, M.C.



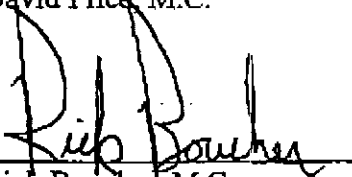
Michael McNulty, M.C.



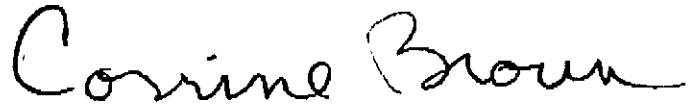
David Price, M.C.



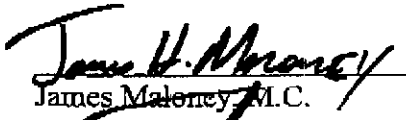
Dale Kildee, M.C.



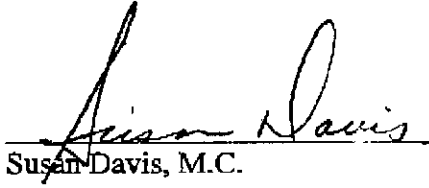
Rick Boucher, M.C.



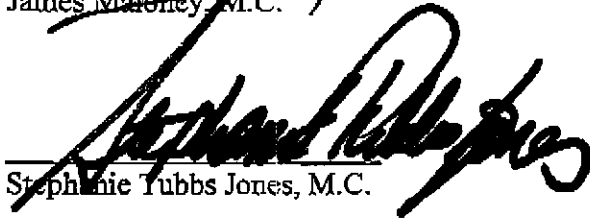
Corrine Brown, M.C.



James Maloney, M.C.



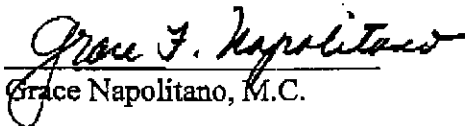
Susan Davis, M.C.




Stephanie Tubbs Jones, M.C.



Richard Larsen, M.C.



Grace Napolitano, M.C.



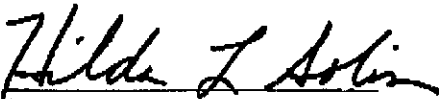
Carolyn Kilpatrick, M.C.



Rush Holt, M.C.



Lucille Roybal-Allard, M.C.



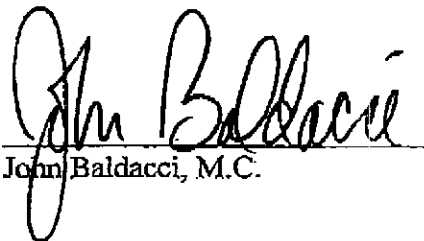
Hilda Solis, M.C.



Pete Stark, M.C.



William Pascrell, M.C.



John Baldacci, M.C.

Bobby Scott
Bobby Scott, M.C.

Marty Meehan
Marty Meehan, M.C.

Patsy T. Mink
Patsy T. Mink, M.C.

Peter Deutsch
Peter Deutsch, M.C.

Nita M. Lowey
Nita M. Lowey, M.C.

Howard L. Berman
Howard L. Berman, M.C.

Mel Watt
Mel Watt, M.C.

Bennie G. Thompson
Bennie G. Thompson, M.C.

Nydia Velazquez
Nydia Velazquez, M.C.

Robert Menendez
Robert Menendez, M.C.

John J. LaFalce
John J. LaFalce, M.C.

Bobby L. Rush
Bobby L. Rush, M.C.

Jose E. Serrano
Jose E. Serrano, M.C.

Marcy Kaptur
Marcy Kaptur, M.C.

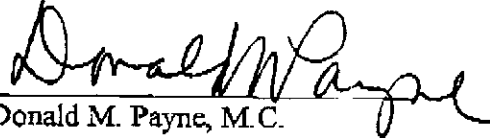
Gary L. Ackerman
Gary L. Ackerman, M.C.


Bernard Sanders
Bernard Sanders, M.C.

Tom Lantos
Tom Lantos, M.C.

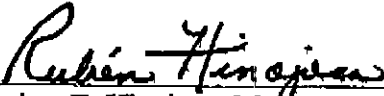
John Conyers, Jr.
John Conyers, Jr., M.C.

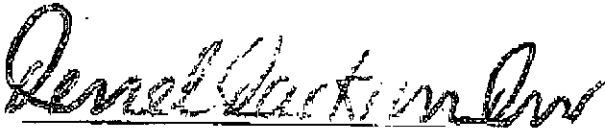

Gene Green, M.C.

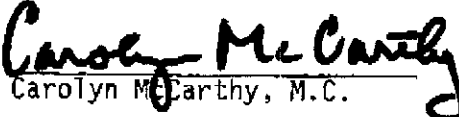

Donald M. Payne, M.C.

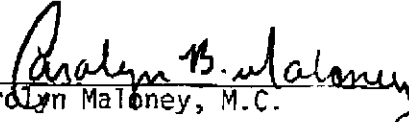

Carrie Meek, M.C.


Silvestre Reyes, M.C.

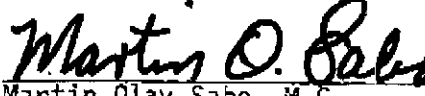

Ruben E. Hinojosa, M.C.


Jesse Jackson, Jr., M.C.


Carolyn McCarthy, M.C.

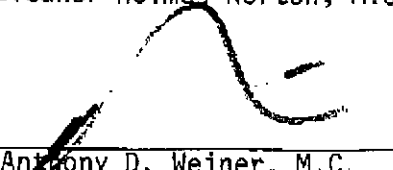

Carolyn Maloney, M.C.


Chaka Fattah, M.C.

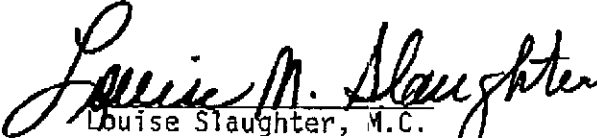

Martin Olav Sabo, M.C.


Eleanor Holmes Norton, M.C.


Karen McCarthy, M.C.


Anthony D. Weiner, M.C.


Robert E. Andrews, M.C.


Louise Slaughter, M.C.