



## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

### Oregon Business Leaders Support the Roadless Rule

Dear Colleague:

Nearly 150 million people, more than two-thirds of Americans, participate in outdoor recreation activities annually. Among these activities are hiking, biking, camping, climbing, kayaking, canoeing, and snowshoeing. Wild and undeveloped places, and the special outdoor recreation experiences found there, are essential for the health and longevity of both the millions of Americans who participate in these activities and the \$18 billion outdoor recreation industry.

This week, some of the biggest names in Oregon's corporate world, along with local manufacturers, of outdoor equipment joined the growing number of America's recreation-based business community to call on the Bush administration to uphold protections for National Forest roadless areas. Nike, Adidas, Salomon, Columbia Sportswear, and seven other outdoor recreation businesses headquartered in Oregon spoke of the importance of wild roadless forests to their customers and their businesses.


As the attached letter states, America's recreation-based business community is dependent on these wild forest lands to maintain their economic stability.

"... modifications to the Roadless Rule would have the potential to negatively impact our nation's natural resources, our citizens' outdoor experience and ultimately, our industry's financial health ... We believe weakening the 2001 Roadless Rule could degrade these important forests, constrain our customers' activities and, in doing so, diminish our business opportunities."

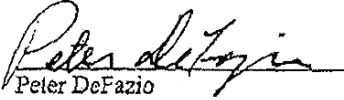
The Roadless Rule not only enjoys overwhelming public support – more than 2.5 million comments received – it also is supported by hundreds of gun and sportsmen groups around the country, numerous governors, and major U.S. corporations. Despite this widespread support for protecting these last wild places, the Administration seems intent on weakening the rule, which is not only out of touch with the will of the American people but also out of step with much of corporate America.

Future generations are counting on us. These lands are part of America's treasured natural heritage, along with national parks like Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon. The Roadless Area Conservation Rule represents a true balance between environmental and economic concerns, and the recent support from these major U.S. corporations shows, once again, that protecting roadless areas is good for the economy as well as for this nation's public lands.


Sincerely,



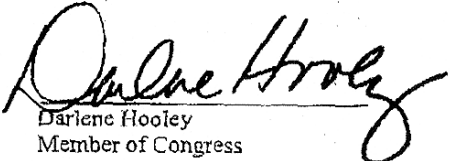
David W.  
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
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Darlene Hooley  
Member of Congress