



# FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER

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April 2, 2009

Walter Minnick  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Minnick,

We express our strong support for the visionary and practical legislation, the Act to Save America's Forests. This legislation would provide needed protection for wild forests and would direct that public lands should be managed in the public interests. Unfortunately, the federal agencies have been lax in their duty to the American public on this account.

The Act includes some very important provisions. For example, the scientific studies provide needed information. While the agencies have scientists, too often the implications of commercializing and commodifying public forests are buried. The Act would require the Forest Service and other agencies to protect and restore native biodiversity on public forest lands, a crucial policy required to guarantee the survival of many wild species in the United States for future generations of Americans.

The roadless areas are the largest remaining intact natural forests in the U.S., yet they are constantly threatened by logging and new roads. The Act provides strong protections against logging and roadbuilding for all roadless areas on national forests and other federal lands, including both inventoried and uninventoried roadless areas. The limitations which the Act would place on using public forests for commercial gain are far better than current practices which are rarely in the public interest. The Act prevents clearcutting, high-grading, and other forms of very destructive logging on our federal lands. Finally, exempting wilderness areas from the provisions of the Act is an added bonus as those areas are already protected and are intended to be wild, self-willed landscapes.

In a previous Congress, the Act to Save America's Forests gained 135 House cosponsors and 6 Senate cosponsors. We urge you to cosponsor this legislation. Please keep us updated on your position on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Gary Macfarlane