

July 21, 2004

The Honorable Rick Larsen
2930 Wetmore Ave, Ste. 9E
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Congressman Larsen:

As owners and operators of the 32 Skykomish Valley businesses listed below, we are writing to express our support for the Wild Sky Wilderness Act (H.R. 822) which is currently being considered in Congress.

The Skykomish River Valley, from the city of Monroe to the town of Skykomish, is a special place to live, in large part because of its natural heritage. Our communities are minutes away from old growth forests, snow-capped peaks, secluded waterfalls and scenic vistas. The area proposed for the Wild Sky Wilderness is a key part of that heritage, drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors to our region of Snohomish County each year.

The recreational opportunities afforded by this remarkable area are the cornerstone of many of our businesses. Visitors from throughout western Washington and beyond travel up the Highway 2 corridor to hunt, fish, hike, camp, cross country ski, horseback ride, birdwatch, raft, kayak and get away from the city's hustle and bustle in the Wild Sky area. Along the way they eat meals, buy groceries, purchase gear, sign up for a rafting, kayaking or other recreational trip, and stay overnight at our establishments.

Many of our businesses sponsored the Wild Sky Wilderness festival in June of 2003 by providing food, supplies and raffle items for that event, which attracted nearly 400 individual Wild Sky supporters from as far away as Bellingham and Spokane to see the Wild Sky first hand. That event underscored the popularity of this area, not to mention the important economic potential it holds for the local economy.

We commend your efforts to work with local stakeholders to address concerns about the proposal early on and reach good faith compromises where appropriate. As business owners we too have a stake in protecting the recreational opportunities and the great quality of life in this area for the customers that we so proudly serve.

Sincerely,

Alan Kearney
Alpine Adventures, Inc.
Gold Bar, WA

David Meier
A Cabin in the Sky & A Stone's Throw B&B
Index, WA

Shane Turnbull
Chinook Expeditions
Index, WA

Janet Triplett
Whispering Waters Cabin & Cascade Cottage
Baring/Skykomish, WA

Kelly Stone
Werner Paddles
Sultan, WA

Bill & Joni Miller
Le Sports Junkies
Startup, WA

Rich and Nancy Yarges
Skykomish Deli
Skykomish, WA

Scott Peterson
Washington Serpentarium
Monroe, WA

Phil Freeman and Catherine Gallagher
A River Runs Through It & Grey Fox vacation rentals
Baring/Index, WA

Lisa Olson
Hillbillies
Gold Bar, WA

Randy Batten
1896 Food & Spirits
Startup, WA

Sung H. Kim
Fairground Inn
Monroe, WA

Nicole Freidt
Simon's & Son Fine Dry Cleaning
Monroe, WA

Noel Cortez
La Michoacana Inc.
Monroe, WA

Chris Jonason
Wave Trek, Inc.
Index, WA

Dave Faigin
Sunset Falls Cabin & Mysty Mountain Cabin
Index/Skykomish, WA

Mike Donow
*Beige Universe Computer, LLC & Cottage Book
Exchange*
Monroe, WA

Casey and Karen Garland
Downstream River Runners
Monroe, WA

Henry Sladek
Cascadia Inn
Monroe, WA

Geoff Miller
White Knight Plumbers
Monroe, WA

Lisa F. Miller
Steel Magnolias
Monroe, WA

Rick & Susan Goranson
SkyRiver Inn
Skykomish, WA

Steve Higgins
Frontier Services
Gold Bar, WA

Martin and Moon Mullins
Rose Hill Cabin at Mt. Index
Index, WA

Pam Paag
Trailhead Cafe
Gold Bar, WA

Fiza Sadat
Good Life Health Food
Monroe, WA

MaraLee Gibson
The Country Cupboard
Monroe, WA