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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

MEMBER OF  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
LIVESTOCK AND GRAINS  
FARM LABOR  
CONSUMER RELATIONS  
FORESTS

March 29, 1968

APK 2 1968

Honorable James A. McClure  
1413 House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Jim:

On Wednesday of this week I introduced H. R. 16252, copy enclosed, to establish the North Cascades National Recreation Area in the State of Washington. This legislation was introduced for the purpose of placing before the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs the official proposal of the State of Washington for the future best use of the great North Cascades region, one of nature's true wonderlands.

The Committee has announced that field hearings by the National Parks and Recreation Subcommittee will be held at Seattle April 19 and 20, 1968, to consider H. R. 8970, H. R. 13139, and the Senate-passed S. 1321. These bills embrace the federal proposal for the North Cascades: a 570,000 acre national park, two recreation areas and two wilderness areas.

The bill I have introduced as an alternative for consideration at the field hearings follows the recommendations of the Governor of the State of Washington: a 1,891,000 acre national recreation area which would be zoned into high-intensity recreational use areas, wilderness areas, and a 312,320 acre national park. A map depicting this proposal is enclosed, and I have in my office large, official maps prepared by the State of Washington for your inspection and Committee use. I shall be happy to make these maps available at any time.

I should like to give you some background information as to the developments which led to the provisions of H. R. 16252:

In 1963 President Kennedy directed the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to conduct a survey of the federal lands embraced in the North Cascades and to make a report to the Congress as to their future use. A part of the charge given the study team by the Secretaries was that recommendations were to be sought and considered which were expressive of the interest of the people of



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the area, the State of Washington, the region and the United States, in that order, and to invite from the Governor of the State of Washington an official recommendation from the people of the State of Washington.

Governor Daniel J. Evans undertook this responsibility conscientiously. To assist him, he formed an Advisory Committee on the North Cascades. This Committee consisted of a representative group of citizens of the State having an expressed interest in the future of the North Cascades and included Directors of State Departments having official responsibilities for the natural resources involved. The Committee consisted of sixteen persons. It was purposely developed to represent the diverse interests involved and to bring them to the conference table for reasoned discussions.

The Committee held a number of meetings, and on each occasion the Governor met with them so that he could benefit from their reasoning. It was early evident that while the group included strong proponents and strong opponents of a national park in the North Cascades, a clear majority favored no national park. Thus, if only a majority view had been sought, it could have easily and quickly been achieved and it would have been one of opposition to a third national park in the State of Washington.

That this was not done is a credit to the farsightedness and reasoning of the Committee members. From these deliberations came a growing conviction that a position in opposition to, or in favor of, a North Cascades National Park, left almost totally unanswered the real question: How could this great natural wonderland be preserved and retained intact and in perpetuity, and how could it best be made available, not just for groups of people, but truly for the outdoor recreational interests of all of the people of America?

There began to develop in the minds of the Committee a new and different concept of preservation and use, one which had not previously been offered or considered - a plan which eventually captured the interest and support of all of the diverse groups represented on the Committee with but one dissenting vote.

This concept is presented in the legislation I have introduced. While the entire area of approximately 1,891,000 acres is termed a national recreation area, perhaps the terminology is confusing. The Committee selected the term not as it is defined by national standards but rather to describe an entire area that should be set aside for primary recreational use and within its outside boundaries be further zoned into high intensity recreational use areas, wilderness areas, and a national park.



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The Governor's Committee was called back into session just prior to the Senate hearings on the federal proposal, S. 1321, to review that bill. As a result of that meeting the Governor's Committee reiterated its endorsement of its original proposal as being more comprehensive than the federal proposal.

The following are the refined acreage calculations for the State Plan:

|                                |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Mt. Baker Recreation Area      | 119,640 acres |
| Cascade River Recreation Area  | 17,000 acres  |
| Ross & Highway Recreation Area | 215,092 acres |
| Lake Chelan Recreation Area    | 47,120 acres  |
| Total Recreation areas         | 398,852 acres |

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|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| North Cascades National Park | 312,320 acres |
|                              | 312,320 acres |

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|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Okanogan Wilderness        | 522,228 acres   |
| Eldorado Wilderness        | 162,956 acres   |
| Glacier Peak Wilderness    | 494,497 acres   |
| Present USFS               | 458,505         |
| Add: Whitechuck/Suiattle   | 10,672          |
| Add: Northeast to Lk. Che. | 25,320          |
| Total Wilderness Areas     | 1,179,681 acres |

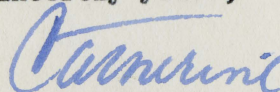
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|                                   |                 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| GRAND TOTAL ACREAGE IN STATE PLAN | 1,890,853 ACRES |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|

Your consideration of H. R. 16252 will be greatly appreciated by not only myself, the Governor of the State of Washington and his Advisory Committee on the North Cascades, but also by thousands of Washington State residents who believe this proposal is more nearly reflective of the needs of all persons and groups interested in the North Cascades.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,



CATHERINE MAY  
Member of Congress

Enclosures  
CM:sjk



