

PO Box 64
Moscow, Idaho
January 11, 1962

The Honorable Gracie Pfoest
Old Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Madam:

I am taking advantage of your invitation to express my views on future legislation as per your letter dated March 6, 1961.

I still want to voice opposition to Senate Bill 174. Detailed facts and figures you already have from previous letters.

Why don't you ask the ardent proponents of the Wilderness Systems if they would be willing to share the vast areas they want to lock behind an "Iron Curtain" with an average American family who would also like to enjoy the beauties and wildlife of nature? What is more important, a guided tour while listening to the monotonous tone of the guide even though he or she may hold Ph D's in Botany, Zoology, Geology and etc. describing the plants, wildlife or geological formations then stop at some high promontory overlooking a vast domain untouched by man except for those who walk or ride horseback, and describe the area from a small scale map quoting figures?

I hope you think a father or mother are better qualified to answer the questions of young minds, and encourage their inquisitive thoughts on Botany, Zoology and Geology along adequate forest roads where they may stop to camp and relax.

Young students from grade school through college could take advantage of scheduled field trips concurrent with their science studies, under able qualified educational guardians to whom we entrust these young people.

I am sure you think the young people of America are our most valuable asset, and will be our future diplomats and good will representatives in the future. I know you think these active minds and nervous energies must be guided into right constructive channels.

Surely you have studied history and watched current events unfold where too many restrictions and too much "compression" developed explosive activity and not always in the correct direction.

Do you actually think Senate Bill 174 is the proper legislation to reclassify primitive wilderness areas, then lock out the average American family, and only those few enter who have diplomatic immunity conferred by wealth or connections with some exclusive national clubbing,

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hiking or Sportsman's Club?

My proposal is to kill Senate Bill 174 now. If the Wilderness people are afraid of industrial development by mining and lumbering interests, why not restrict (or what have you) until such time of absolute necessity to the future defense or economy of this nation?

I propose necessary legislation be initiated to allow, under supervision by qualified Government representatives, access Forest Roads to be constructed into large primitive areas for forest fire protection and recreation now.

These views expressed are entirely my own, however, copies of this letter will be mailed to service clubs, Chambers of Commerce and people within the educational field throughout the State of Idaho.

With kindest regards for proper legislative action.

Yours truly,

W. D. Field