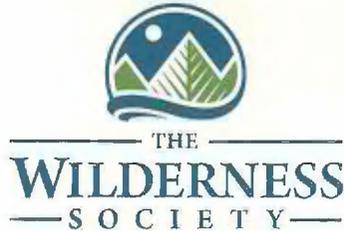


JUL 08 2009



June 26, 2009

The Honorable Norm Dicks  
2467 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear ~~Chairman Dicks:~~ *Norm*

On behalf of The Wilderness Society's 400,000 members and activists, I want to thank you for your leadership in passing the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill for 2010. It is truly a strong piece of bipartisan legislation that continues the great work your subcommittee has done in support of our natural resources.

We are acutely aware of the difficult economic times our country current faces, and that makes this subcommittee's spending bill all the more courageous. The 17% increase over FY 09 that you and Chairman Obey fought for and protected at the committee level and on the floor will continue to help our nation protect its public lands and combat climate change.

TWS is truly appreciative of these strong funding levels and we will be advocating for them strongly as the Interior Appropriations bill heads to a conference. We would also like to thank your hard working staff, especially Delia Scott, Chris Topik, and Greg Knadle for their dogged determination to get this bill passed. It could not have been done without them.

Norm, you are truly a champion and advocate for our public lands, and we look forward to our continued work with you on behalf of wild places.

Sincerely,

*Will*  
*Great leadership!*

William H. Meadows