



*Friends of Allegheny Wilderness seeks to foster an appreciation of wilderness values and benefits, and to work with local communities to ensure that increased wilderness protection is a priority of the stewardship of the Allegheny National Forest.*

December 17, 2009

Senator Jeff Bingaman, Chairman  
Senator Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senators,

Thank you very much for holding a hearing today on S. 1470, the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act of 2009.

I have read S. 1470 in full, and am writing on behalf of the non-profit Friends of Allegheny Wilderness in support of the bill. This good bill would permanently protect 670,000 acres of wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964 on national forests in Montana, while including substantive items for other important stakeholders on these forests. These stakeholders include timbering interests, off-road vehicle users, and others.

FAW has been following closely the progress of the development of this Montana project for many years, and we have every confidence that all parties involved have done their due diligence and have arrived at a final product that should be widely supported, and indeed emulated elsewhere. We hope to see S. 1470 make it's way rapidly through the Congress to the President's desk for his signature.

Further, we hope and believe this progressive, inclusive approach to building a wilderness bill can serve as a useful model for creating a wilderness bill in the near future for the Allegheny National Forest here in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kirk Johnson".

Kirk Johnson  
Executive Director