

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Joe Neguse
Chair, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands
1419 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Neguse and Members of the Subcommittee:

We write to support the ***Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act*** (H.R. 7329 and S. 1538) and to urge its passage. The Smith River is within the area of Southern Oregon and Northern California known as *America's Wild Rivers Coast*. It's known for wild rivers, extraordinary coastline, ancient redwood and conifer forests, and myriad year-round recreation opportunities from salmon fishing to whitewater rafting ---- to simply admiring some of nature's finest. This legislation completes protection for one of our nation's premier Wild and Scenic Rivers by providing a permanent mineral withdrawal/ban on new mining claims in the headwaters of the North Fork Smith River in Oregon and also designates 75 miles of North Fork tributaries as wild and scenic. These protections are critically important to the Smith as one of the premier "salmon strongholds" along the Pacific Coast as well as maintaining the watershed as a prized recreation and tourism destination --- and as a water supply for downstream communities.

We are a diverse group of water purveyors, river and recreation advocates, local businesses, fishery and backcountry conservation organizations, tribes, representatives from local and state government, and civic organizations. Together, we are all grateful for your assistance. We represent thousands of people who are members, customers, and/or have signed petitions in support of and endorsed this legislation. Thank you!

Jennifer Johnson
Adventure's Edge

Bill Jennings
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

Brett Mayer
American Canoe Association

Mike McGuire
California State Senator - District 2

David Moryc
American Rivers

Curtis Knight
California Trout

Thomas O'Keefe
American Whitewater

Jason Greenough
City Council of Crescent City

Luke Ruediger
Applegate Neighborhood Alliance

Cindy Vosburg
Crescent City-Del Norte Chamber of Commerce

Jason Gindlesperger
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Court Boice
Curry County Commissioners

Dave Strahan
Big Rock Sports

Dale A. Miller
Elk Valley Rancheria

Alan Porteous
Big Rock Community Services District

Gerry Hemmingsen
Del Norte County Board of Supervisors

Harvey Young
Fishhawk River Company

Ken Morrish
Flywater Travel

Ron Stork
Friends of the River

Mark Dodd
Gasquet Community Services District

Elicia Goldsworthy
Green Diamond Resource Company

Will Volpert
Indigo Creek Outfitters

Luke Ruediger
Klamath Forest Alliance

Michael Dodson
Klamath Siskiyou Wildland Center

Steve O'Meara
Kokatat

Carol Moon Goldberg
League of Women Voters of California

Rebecca Gladstone
League of Women Voters of Oregon

Mark Sherwood
Native Fish Society

Mark Rockwell
N. CA Council, Fly Fishers International

Zach Collier
Northwest Rafting Company

Kate Wollney
OARS Oregon

David Brock Smith
Oregon House of Representatives - District 1

Louis Geltman
Outdoor Alliance

Erik and Kory
Orange Torpedo Raft Trips

Glen Spain
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations

Morgan Randall
Pierson Building Center

Gail Kenny
Redwood Region Audubon Society

Alex Kwan and Adam Spencer
Redwood Rides

Samuel Hodder
Save The Redwoods League

Grant Werschkull and Patty McCleary
Smith River Alliance

David Lacey
Southcoast Tours LLC

Jason Hartwick
Steelhead on the Spey Guide Service

J.R. Weir
Sundance Kayak School

Paul Spitler
The Wilderness Society

Dean Finnerty
Trout Unlimited

Susan Jane Brown
Western Environmental Law Center

Alyssa Babin
Wild and Scenic Rivers

Lisa Ronald
Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition

Gordon Lyford
Wild Rivers Water Rights

Guido Rahr
Wild Salmon Center