



February 24, 2020

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support H.R. 803, the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act

Dear Representative,

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) works to turn environmental values into national priorities. Each year, LCV publishes the *National Environmental Scorecard*, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The *Scorecard* is the nationally accepted yardstick used to rate members of Congress on environmental, public health, and energy issues and is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters, and the media.

We urge you to vote YES on H.R. 803, the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act, which would permanently protect majestic public lands and rivers across Arizona, Colorado, California, and Washington. Listening to the wishes of communities in these states seeking to preserve nearby nature can help the country reach the science-based goal of protecting 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030.

This legislation is a package of eight bills that help nature-deprived communities access parks and public lands, protect areas sacred to Indigenous peoples, ensure clean and safe drinking water, preserve wildlife habitat, and promote the outdoor recreation economy. The Grand Canyon Protection Act has earned strong support from Tribal Nations by protecting areas surrounding this iconic and sacred national park that's at risk from mining and water pollution. The Colorado Wilderness Act permanently protects nearly 660,000 acres of stunning public lands across the state where outdoor enthusiasts can hike, raft, and mountain climb. And the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act preserves over 400,000 acres of public land that enhances the state's thriving outdoor recreation industry.

In California, the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act and the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act boost access to open space for park-poor communities in the Los Angeles area. The Central Coast Heritage Protection Act designates nearly 250,000 acres of public land in the Los Padres National Forest and Carrizo Plain National Monument as wilderness, the highest level of protection available. The Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act protects rivers and wild places and expands economic and recreational opportunities throughout the region. And in Washington, the Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act—the product of years of input from local communities, businesses and other stakeholders—permanently protects the last remaining acres of ancient and mature forests on the Olympic Peninsula.

For these reasons, LCV strongly urges you to support H.R. 803, support all pro-environment amendments—including but not limited to Rep. Barragan #31 on the Outdoors For All Act—and to oppose any amendments that undermine this bill. We will strongly consider including votes on this bill in the 2021 *Scorecard*. If you need more information, please contact a member of our government affairs team.



Our Earth Is Worth Fighting For

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene Karpinski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Gene Karpinski
President