

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

LOS ANGELES RIVER CENTER & GARDENS
570 WEST AVENUE TWENTY-SIX, SUITE 100
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90065
PHONE (323) 221-8900
FAX (323) 221-9001
WWW.SMMC.CA.GOV



June 28, 2010

The Honorable David Dreier
Congressman, 26th District
510 East Foothill Boulevard, Suite 201
San Dimas, California 91773

San Gabriel Mountains Wilderness and Wild & Scenic River Legislation

Hon. Congressman Dreier:

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) fully supports the legislation to designate additional wilderness area and wild rivers in the Angeles National Forest.

The San Gabriel Mountains are an enormous natural resource, providing substantial watershed and environmental habitats, high quality water supplies, and vast recreational opportunities for over 3 million annual visitors. But with 10 million people living within an hour's drive, and with development encroaching from many sides, there is a very real need for enhanced strong federal protection of the following resource areas:

Sheep Mountain Wilderness Additions
Cucamonga Mountain Wilderness Additions
San Gabriel Wilderness Additions
San Gabriel Wild & Scenic River Designation
San Antonio Creek Wild & Scenic River Designation
Middle Fork of Lytle Creek Wild & Scenic River Designation

In 1929, the Chief Forester of the United States, William B Greeley issued a regulation for the establishment of Primitive Areas "...within which will be maintained primitive conditions of environment, transportation, habitation, and subsistence, with a view to conserving the value of such areas for purposes of public education, inspiration and recreation." Today, the need for such protections in the San Gabriel Mountains has increased in proportion to the population of users.

The Conservancy encourages your leadership efforts to introduce legislation effecting such federal protections for the San Gabriel Mountains. These are essential to the Conservancy's efforts to safeguard the Rim of the Valley. As the State of California continues to grow,

The Honorable David Dreier
June 28, 2010
Page 2

so do our needs to preserve the last remaining crown jewels of our mountains, rivers, and deserts while the opportunity exists. Thank you again for your dedication and leadership on this very important effort.

Sincerely,

RONALD P. SCHAFER
Chairperson