



WILD VIRGINIA

Protecting your favorite wild places

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June 23, 2004

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Bush:

We are writing to express our support for the Roadless Area Conservation Rule as it was issued in January 2001. This landmark conservation policy protects 58.5 million acres of national forest land, including nearly 400,000 acres in Virginia. In addition, more than 45,000 comments in favor of the rule were submitted by citizens of the Commonwealth, an unprecedented outpouring of public support. As businesses, organizations, and citizens of Virginia, who benefit greatly from our National Forests, we wish to publicly voice our support of upholding the Roadless Area Conservation Rule in its entirety.

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule ensures that our national forests will continue to provide clean drinking water for millions of Americans and critical habitat for fish and wildlife species. Additionally, the rule provides full access for recreational activities such as hiking, paddling, biking, hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing and closes no existing trail. The balanced rule does not close any existing roads and also allows for new roads needed to protect public health and safety in the cases of fire or flood and for accessing private property or existing oil and gas leases.

We are deeply disappointed that your administration recently exempted Alaska's Tongass Rainforest from the roadless rule. We are further troubled by reports that changes to weaken the roadless rule are imminent. It is our understanding that the proposed changes would allow governors to opt out of the rule for national forests in their states, or may require governors to opt in to a new rule in order to protect roadless areas in their states.

We believe that approach is unnecessary given the current rule's reasonable exemptions. Such an approach would undermine the important national rule necessary to ensure the conservation of roadless areas for the use of present and future generations. We urge you to leave the roadless Rule intact in the Lower 48 and in Alaska's Chugach National Forest, and reinstate the roadless rule in the Tongass. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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| Wild Virginia Charlottesville, VA | Patrick Environmental Awareness Group Stuart, VA | Murphy Beverage Company Winchester, VA | Runners' Retreat Winchester, VA |
| Southern Environmental Law Center Charlottesville, VA | Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Project Asheville, NC | Handworks Gallery Winchester, VA | East Coasters Cycling & Fitness Blacksburg, VA |
| L.G. Flint General Contractors Lynchburg, VA | Point Elizabeth Garden Club Suffolk, Virginia | Old Town Stained Glass Winchester, VA | Oyster House Antiques Charlottesville, VA |
| Ferncliff Properties, Lynchburg, VA | Wild Animals, Rivers and Trees Clintwood, VA | Melissa Marie Boutique Winchester, VA | Virginia NeuroCare, Inc. Charlottesville, VA |
| Living Education Center for Ecology and the Arts Charlottesville, VA | The Concerned Citizens of Rutherford County Rutherfordton, NC | EastMeetsWest Pottery Winchester, VA | Copernicus Charlottesville, VA |
| The National Forest Protection Alliance Charlottesville, VA | NatureSpirit at Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church Charlottesville, VA | EBS Gallery Winchester, VA | Sage Moon Gallery Charlottesville, VA |
| Virginia Forest Watch Clintwood, VA | Dickenson County Citizens Committee Clinch, VA | Botticelli Winchester, VA | Daedalus Books Charlottesville, VA |
| Waste Stream Technologies Charlottesville, VA | Piedmont Appalchian Trail Hikers Greensboro, NC 27404 | Cranberry's Staunton, VA | Chinaberry Charlottesville, VA |
| Techniquet Charlottesville VA | Chesapeake Bay Foundation Richmond, VA | Al Weed Democratic candidate for Congressional 5 th District Lovingston, VA | Innisfree World Artisans Charlottesville, VA |
| Rivanna Conservation Society Palmyra, VA | Glen Burnie Garden Club Winchester, VA | Michael Nichols Staff Photographer, National Geographic Crozet, VA | Intrinsic Natural Art Charlottesville, VA |
| Cville Indymedia Charlottesville, VA | Rattle & Roll Charlottesville, VA | Maurice Cox Charlottesville Mayor Charlottesville, VA | Transient Crafters Charlottesville, VA |
| Community Bikes Charlottesville, VA | Mountain Heritage Alliance Damascus, VA | WellSpirit Hollistic Health & Healing Center Luray, VA | Quilts Unlimited Charlottesville, VA |
| Mink Creek Studio Scottsville, VA | Mt. Rogers Outfitters Damascus, VA | Ciao Susanna Fairfax, VA | Earfood Winchester, VA |
| Westend Academy of Dance Richmond, VA | Belle Meade Inn Sperryville, Virginia | A Joyful Spirit Caf  Lexington, VA | Holt's For the Home Staunton, VA |
| The Clinch Coalition Coeburn, VA | Cabell Brand Center Salem, VA | Back in the Woods Warrenton, VA | Homebody Blacksburg, VA |
| Coalition for Jobs and the Environment Abingdon, VA | Braddock Street United Methodist Church Winchester, VA | Central Coffee Company Sperryville, VA | Honeysuckle Hill Staunton, VA |
| Devil's Fork Trail Club Dungannon, VA | The New River Free Press Blacksburg, VA | Celebrate Staunton, VA | Rockbridge Area Conservation Council Lexington, VA |
| Citizens of Lee Environmental Action Network St. Charles, VA | Kharis Earth Art Winchester, VA | Cocoa Mill Chocolate Company Lexington, VA | Cha Cha's Charlottesville, VA |
| Taking Responsibility for the Earth and Environment (TREE) Blacksburg, VA | | Harvest Moon Food Stores Floyd, VA | Pearl Charlottesville, VA |
| | | Ciboulette Charlottesville, VA | Vivian's Art for Living Charlottesville, VA |
| | | | New Dominion Bookshop Charlottesville, VA |
| | | | Read & Co. Charlottesville, VA |

Market Street Wineshop
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Garden of Sheeba
Charlottesville, VA

12th Nigh Inn
Staunton, VA

Pifer Office Supply, Inc.
Winchester, VA

Moving Comfort
Chantilly, VA

Mountain Trails
Winchester, VA

Gendarme Climbing
Shop
Seneca Rocks, WV

Seneca Rocks Climbing
School
Seneca Rocks, WV

Once Upon a Time
Staunton, VA

Joan of Art Custom
Framing
Marshall, VA

Natural Alternatives
Berryville, VA

Pam's Natural Way
Health Food Center
Staunton, VA

American Canoe
Association
Springfield, VA

Richard Ganes Family
Dentistry
Winchester, VA

Blind Faith Enterprises
Winchester, VA

Indigo Night
Charlottesville, VA

For the Wild Birds
McLean, VA

Wild Bird Center
Woodbridge, VA

Photoworks
Leesburg, VA

Royal Oak Bookshop
Front Royal, VA

Roots Rock Reggae
Charlottesville, VA

Old Town Coffee Tea &
Spice
Alexandria, VA

Mona Lisa Pasta
Charlottesville, VA

Weasel Creek Outfitters
Front Royal, VA

The Bookery, Ltd.
Lexington, VA

Botanica Landscaping
Charlottesville, VA