



Partnership for the National Trails System

122 West Washington Ave., Suite 830, Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 249-7870

February 4, 2009

MEMO TO: Leadership Council and Trail Organization Leaders

FROM: Gary Werner

RE: CONTACT REPRESENTATIVES ABOUT S. 22 -- OMNIBUS PUBLIC LANDS BILL -- TODAY!

Greetings:

I learned today that the House of Representatives is planning to vote on **S. 22 - the Omnibus Public Lands Bill - next week on Wednesday or Thursday. THIS VOTE WILL BE EXTREMELY CLOSE!** It is essential that the House pass the bill as they received it from the Senate.

- If the House makes **any** amendments to the Omnibus Public Lands Act—including under a motion to recommit—the bill must return to the Senate, where it will be stalled indefinitely by a filibuster.
- The bill was stalled in the Senate for nearly a year due to a threatened filibuster. If the House approves the Senate-passed version unchanged, it will go directly to President Obama for his signature. If the bill is modified in any way through an amendment or motion to recommit, the bill must return to the Senate, where it will again be subject to a filibuster. A single amendment effectively kills the bill for this year.

The vast majority of bills included in this omnibus bill have little to no opposition, strong local support and broad, bi-partisan support in Congress.

The **Omnibus Public Lands bill -- S. 22** is the BIG (160 bills in all) trails bill of the new 111th Congress! The bill includes these components important to the National Trails System:

- Authorization of the National Landscape Conservation System in the Bureau of Land Management;
- Authorization of Willing Seller Land Acquisition Authority for nine national scenic and historic trails;
- Authorization of Revision of the Feasibility Study for 4 Historic Trails;
- Designation of the Arizona National Scenic Trail;
- Designation of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail;
- Designation of the New England National Scenic Trail;
- Designation of additional routes and feeder trails for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail;
- Designation of the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail;
- Authorization of a Feasibility Study of the Chisolm Trail;
- Authorization of a Feasibility Study of the Great Western Trail (cattle trail);

PLEASE ACT -- CALL OR E-MAIL YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH -- ASKING THEM TO VOTE TO PASS S. 22 - THE **OMNIBUS PUBLIC LANDS BILL -- WITHOUT ANY AMENDMENTS. THIS IS A CRITICAL BILL FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM!**

MESSAGE IS: VOTE **YES** ON **S. 22**
VOTE **NO** ON **ANY AMENDMENT** TO S. 22

For e-mail addresses and telephone numbers of your Representatives in Washington, D.C. go to www.house.gov on the internet.

If you want to look at the bill you can find it on the Senate Energy Committee's website by going to **Thomas.loc.gov**

The National Trails Section begins about page 465 of the bill.

Please let me know what response you get from your Representatives about this important legislation.

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE THIS ALERT TO OTHER ACTIVISTS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION.

Watch for an alert from American Hiking Society, also.

Thanks for your help!