

4/10/01

Dear Council,
Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. My wife, my family, and myself, indeed all the people we know (including some who work in the timber industry) are all very discouraged and concerned about the President's stance on environmental and economic issues. Specifically:

*Mining laws. At a time when we are all concerned about taxes, finance, and value, the President caters to an industry that has already enjoyed great latitude under the General Mining Law of 1872. A great way to save the taxpayers' money would be to stop giving away federal land for this extractive industry with no compensation for those that own it (taxpayers). Furthermore, sticking taxpayers with the inevitable clean-up costs, which run in the billions of dollars cumulatively is a double-hit and a cheat to all citizens of the United States outside of the industry.

Additional costs in the form of health and well being for those that live downstream of such places can hardly be calculated; so again, we are all disappointed the President has removed what is an accepted standard of water quality, at least among developed nations, for arsenic.

*Forest practices. To say the former administration rushed in the "Roadless Act" is simply not true. We (friends and family) are all aware this policy received more (supportive) public comment than has any proposal in the history of this great nation. To assert anything less is an insult to our collective intelligence. Furthermore, trying to undermine it is a disservice to all citizens, and indeed, a disservice to democracy. Please encourage the President to reconsider his position on this--it is again a large waste of taxpayer dollars to build roads for an industry to pay nothing back to the nation, except in the form of decreased fishing, hiking, and life-experience opportunities.

*Alternative energy. The United States has been a world leader for the past century. It is clear the world is moving to energy sources other than oil (read: diesel and gasoline too) and coal, and this movement is only going to gain speed and momentum, especially considering the dangerous effects of spewing nitrogen oxides, sulphur compounds, and carbon dioxide in to the very finite atmosphere of this planet. It is troublesome to consider the prospect that the United States wouldn't lead the world in this inevitable transition, not to mention dangerous.

Thanks for your time and attention.
Sincerely,

Thomas and Jessica Hammond



2010 N.E. 96th Street
Seattle, Wa.
98115-2340
(206) 685-6203