

**STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN BRAD SHERMAN**  
**H.R. 1835 – RIM OF THE VALLEY CORRIDOR STUDY ACT**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2007**

Chairman Grijalva, Ranking Member Bishop and distinguished members of the Subcommittee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of my colleague Adam Schiff's bill, H.R. 1835 – The Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act. I would also like to thank Congressman Schiff, whose brilliant work brought us here today to discuss this bill, which is very important to my constituents.

Because of the lack of open space and parks in the Los Angeles area, I strongly support this bill to study the impacts of expanding the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the mountains and valleys known as the Rim of the Valley Corridor. The Rim of the Valley Corridor offers eighteen incorporated cities critical open space and parkland.

Since I came to Congress, I have worked to help expand the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, which is the nation's largest urban national park. It is estimated that annually, there are over 35 million visits to this park. Not only would this expansion provide more recreational opportunities for park users, but it would also protect habitat and wildlife populations.

The Rim of the Valley Corridor contains accessible recreation trails for the use and enjoyment of the millions of residents in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. The expansion of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include this area would allow for the completion of the Rim of the Valley Trail. This trail will run 150 miles and offer sweeping vistas of the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles basins. It will also link four mountain ranges.

With input from federal, state and local agencies and the community, this bill will allow the National Park Service to analyze the ecological significance of this contiguous region. There are 645,268 total acres contained within the Rim of the Valley Corridor. This includes 153,750 acres in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and 190,112 acres in the Angeles National Forest.

This legislation addresses the needs and interests of both private landowners and communities within the boundaries of the Rim of the Valley Corridor. That is why a number of local cities and agencies, as well as environmental groups, have

taken strong positions in support of the Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act, including the City of Los Angeles, the City of Santa Clarita, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter.

With the increasing pressure for commercial development, we are losing opportunities to preserve this contiguous corridor for the future of our children and the environment. The Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act is the next step in the continuing efforts to protect the natural resources of this geographically and ecologically distinct region in Southern California.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1835. Thanks again for this opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation.