

Parklands

Protecting Our National Forests

The National Forest

System helps conserve and protect over 191 million acres of forestland for the American people. Every year, millions of Americans use the forests to camp, fish and hunt. In addition, these forests are an important part of the environment and help provide us with clean air and water, and an abundant wildlife. These forests must be protected.

I am a cosponsor of the National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act (H.R. 3563) , which would prevent roads from being built in 58.5 million acres of our national forests.

I am also a cosponsor of the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act (H.R. 3420), which would prevent commercial logging and timber sales on public federal lands.

Additional information
from the Library of Congress:

The
National Forest System Roadless Areas Initiative

Preserving the Lower Farmington
River and
Salmon Brook

The Farmington
River

and Salmon Brook are unique cultural and recreational resources for the first district and the State of Connecticut. Threats to the Lower Farmington's water quality demonstrate the urgent need for a cooperative effort among federal, state, and local interests to preserve the river for future generations. The Lower Farmington clearly deserves federal protection and would make a valuable addition to the Wild and Scenic River System. To this end, I joined Congresswoman

Nancy Johnson (CT-5) in introducing the (H.R. 1344) to study these rivers for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Designation as a federal wild and scenic river would qualify would ensure that the lower Farmington River is preserved and protected for the benefit of this and future generations.

11/13/06 - Larson Applauds Passage of Bill to Protect Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook

Protecting the Long Island Sound

The Long Island Sound is an important economic and ecological resource for Connecticut and New England. The Sound contributes approximately \$6 billion annually to the regional economy and is a cherished resource for the 28 million people that live within 50 miles of its shores. I joined with my colleagues in the Connecticut delegation in cosponsoring the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act (H.R. 307) to identify, protect and enhance sites with ecological, education, and recreational value along the Sound in Connecticut and New York. In addition, I have worked with the delegation to secure much needed funding to help preserve and protect the Sound for future generations.

Preserving New England's Scenic Trails

The Monadnock, Metacomb, and Mattabesett (MMM) Trail System stretches 220 miles from the border of New Hampshire to the Connecticut shoreline and through the First District towns of East Granby, Bloomfield, West Hartford, Berlin, Southington, and Middletown. It offers a variety of scenic features, diverse ecosystems, and historic sites. Currently, more than two million people live within ten miles of the trail system and development throughout New England threatens its future. I have joined with other members of the New England congressional delegation in cosponsoring the New England National Scenic Trail Designation Act (H.R. 1528) to designate the MMM Trail System as the New England National Scenic Trail. This legislation, which follows the recommendations of a 2006 feasibility study performed by the Department of the Interior, would generate the necessary increased levels of attention and resources that are needed for the long-term viability of the trail system.

Additional Cosponsorships

H.R. 1155

The Alaska Rainforest Conservation Act

Designates specified lands in the Chugach National Forest and in the Tongass National Forest located in Alaska as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

H.R. 1204

Rockies Prosperity Act

Designates the following lands in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming as wilderness and components of the National Wilderness Preservation System (System): (1) Greater Glacier/Northern Continental Divide ecosystem; (2) Greater Yellowstone ecosystem; (3) Greater Salmon/Selway ecosystem; (4) Greater Cabinet/Yaak/Selkirk ecosystem; (5) Islands in the Sky Wilderness; and (6) Blackfeet Wilderness.

H.R. 1774

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act of 2003

Designates specified lands in the following areas of Utah as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System: (1) Great Basin; (2) Zion and Mojave Desert; (3) the Grand Staircase and the Escalante Canyons; (4) Moab-La Sal Canyons; (5) Henry Mountains; (6) Glen Canyon; (7) San Juan-Anasazi; (8) Canyonlands Basin; (9) San Rafael Swell; and (10) Book Cliffs and Uinta Basin.

Caucuses

Livable

Communities Task Force: The LCTF seeks to both educate Members of congress and their staff on the federal role in enhancing community livability, as well as support those policies that help make America's families healthy, safe, and more economically secure.

Additional Information

Global
Climate Change: The Kyoto Protocol
Arctic
National Wildlife Refuge: Background and Issues
Forest
Fire/Wildfire Protection

Helpful Links

House Committee on Resources

Environmental
Protection Agency

National
Park Service

Connecticut
Department of Environmental Protection

Connecticut
State Parks and Forests