

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II
U.S. House of Representatives
2307 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
U.S. House of Representatives
1440 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515



August 5, 2010

Dear Chairmen Rahall and Grijalva:

The Wasatch Wilderness and Watershed Protection Act (HR 5009) introduced this year by Rep. Jim Matheson, will protect over 26,000 acres of land in one of the most heavily used forests in the United States. These lands are highly valued, not only for their instant access to a variety of outdoor activities, but more importantly, because of the high quality water they supply to over 600,000 residents and visitors to the Salt Lake Valley.

As a person who loves to <<winter wilderness activity(s)>> in the winter and <<summer wilderness activity(s)>> in the summer on public lands in the Wasatch, I support HR 5009 and the protections it will give this threatened mountain range. Within 45 minutes of Salt Lake City, one can visit their choice of more than 10 ski areas, boasting a variety of terrain, experiences and amenities. While this industry is a valued asset in Utah, it comes at a cost. Resorts have encouraged development of the Wasatch, paving way to develop areas that would have never otherwise been developed. These developments degrade our water resources, clog our geographically restricted roadways with traffic, fragment wildlife habitats, fill in wetlands, and cut-off access to prized backcountry terrain.

Congressman Matheson's legislation strikes a crucial balance in the Wasatch, allowing for ski area expansion outside of the protected watershed and protecting some of the most productive watershed land in the mountains above the Salt Lake Valley. As the Chairmen of your respective committees, ***I ask you to see that HR 5009 gets a mark up hearing and is forwarded to the House Floor for a vote before this Congress concludes.***

It has been over 25 years since Forest lands in Utah have been protected. Since that time this area's population has nearly doubled. Please preserve my ability to enjoy the Wasatch and to share this place with my friends, family members, other stewards of public lands and future generations.

Thank you in advance for your work to protect the Wasatch and other natural treasures in the United States!

Sincerely,

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>
<<Address>> <<Apt#>>
<<City>>, <<State>>, <<Zip>>
<<email>>

<<P.S. Message>>