

U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on Natural Resources

Washington, DC 20515

February 9, 2009

**Support S. 22: The Omnibus Public Land
Management Act of 2009**

Dear Colleague:

The House will soon consider S. 22: *The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009* and I urge you to support this sweeping conservation and historic preservation measure.

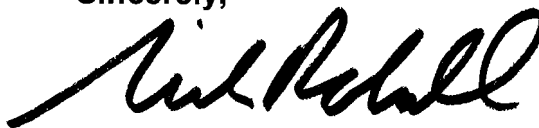
This legislation is an omnibus package of bills left over from the 110th Congress, including more than 70 measures which have already passed the House. More than a year of inaction in the Senate on vital national park, forest, public land, historic preservation and water project authorizations makes this omnibus necessary.

Enactment of S. 22 will strengthen our National Park System as it nears its centennial anniversary, improve forest health, facilitate better management of our public lands through authorization of the National Landscape Conservation System and increase the quantity and quality of water provided to numerous local communities. In addition, invaluable historic and cultural resources, including the sacred ground of American battlefields, will receive better protection under this legislation.

This omnibus package will preserve the pristine national parks, clear, free-flowing rivers and streams, wide-open spaces and cultural and historical resources which make our nation unique. These are the landscapes which inspired generations before us and they can inspire future generations, if we are faithful stewards of them.

This package is the most significant conservation legislation the Congress will consider this year. In uncertain times, this measure will provide small but meaningful improvements to the quality of life for Americans across the country. I urge you to join me in supporting its passage.

Sincerely,



NICK J. RAHALL, II
Chairman
Natural Resources Committee