



February 11, 2009

To the Members of the United States House of Representatives:

I am pleased to share with you the attached letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi voicing our support for the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S.22). The provisions in this bill would provide long-term benefits to the outdoor industry and to millions of outdoor enthusiasts throughout the US. We urge you to support the Omnibus Public Land Management Act.

Today, the US Chamber of Commerce distributed a letter to each member of the House urging opposition to this legislation. I want to make sure you know that the Chamber does not speak for all businesses in the US. I also want to call your attention to some of the Chamber's statements, which are incorrect as follows:

**Myth:** *The omnibus bill would shift millions of additional acres to federal control.*

**Fact:** The overwhelming majority of lands affected by S. 22 are already owned by the federal government. Provisions in the legislation simply bestow new management designations.

**Myth:** *Wilderness designations on lands in the bill would prevent all major recreation on them.*

**Fact:** Wilderness areas are open to hiking, backpacking, trail running, hunting, fishing, rockclimbing, paddling, whitewater rafting, mountaineering, birdwatching, and many other activities important to outdoor industry customers.

**Myth:** *The bill would add to the federal land management agency maintenance backlog.*

**Fact:** Most of the lands included in the bill would be designated Wilderness, which requires little or no maintenance. No permanent structures are allowed in Wilderness.

**Myth:** *S. 22 will increase government spending.*

**Fact:** S. 22 is an authorization bill, not an appropriations measure. No monies are directed to be spent, and any cost associated with the legislation is subject to the appropriations process. The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 **does not** appropriate any money from the federal treasury but, rather, allows worthy programs to be considered for appropriations in the future. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) "estimates that enacting S. 22 would have no effect on revenues and no net effect on direct spending over the 2009-2013 period or the 2009-2018 period, which are the time periods relevant for enforcing the pay-as-you-go rules under the current budget resolution."<sup>1</sup>

**Myth:** *S. 22 will significantly restrict energy development and private property rights.*

**Fact:** The wilderness and conservation measures within S. 22 will have only negligible effects on oil and gas production because the areas identified for protection are not priorities for production. The

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<sup>1</sup> CBO letter to Congressman John Spratt, Chairman, Committee on the Budget, 2/6/2009.

Wyoming Range Legacy Act (Title III, Subtitle C of S. 22), for example, will have no significant effect on oil and gas production, because the federal land management agencies have no plans to issue new oil and gas leases in the next decade.<sup>2</sup> Meanwhile, Wyoming as a state already extracts the second highest amount of natural gas in the nation and the nearby Jonah and Pinedale Anticline oil fields continue to produce significant oil and gas and hold more than 25 times more oil and gas than the Wyoming Range. The Wyoming Range provision is co-sponsored by both of Wyoming's Republican Senators and was deliberately written to respect private property rights.

S.22 passed the US Senate by a wide, bipartisan majority. We hope the House will do the same.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Sterling", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

John Sterling  
Executive Director

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<sup>2</sup> Congressional Budget Office. 2008. Cost estimate for the Wyoming Range Legacy Act.



# The Conservation Alliance

Outdoor Business Giving Back to the Outdoors

February 5, 2009

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
Office of the Speaker  
H-232, US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Business Support for the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S.22)**

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

On behalf of the 165 members of the Outdoor Industry Conservation Alliance, we thank you for your long-standing commitment to land and water conservation. We represent outdoor gear and clothing manufacturers, retailers, and related vendors based throughout the United States. **We are writing to voice our strong support for the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S.22), and to urge you to do all that you can to ensure its swift passage through the House of Representatives.**

Ours is an industry that depends heavily on protected public lands and waterways as places where our customers use the products we make and sell. The customers of our growing \$33-billion industry recreate in the wildest of lands and rivers, and we provide them with the high-quality equipment they need to do so. The Omnibus Public Land Management Act is a bipartisan package of bills that would protect two million acres of Wilderness and 1000 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers, and prohibit new oil and gas development on 1.2 million acres of public land in Wyoming. The bill would preserve special places in California's White Mountains and Sierra Nevada, Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park, Idaho's Owyhee Canyonlands, Oregon's Mount Hood, and National Forest lands in Virginia and West Virginia. It would also protect spectacular rivers in California, Wyoming, Idaho, and Oregon.

This package represents a rare conservation opportunity, and one that would benefit our growing industry. Americans increasingly look to their public lands for recreation, adventure, and solace. As economic uncertainty increases, Americans are staying closer to home, looking for opportunities in their backyards to enjoy outdoor experiences. In economic terms, the demand for protected public lands is high, and this package would ensure a supply of wild places to meet that demand. The Omnibus Public Land Management Act is an investment in our economic future, and in the future of outdoor recreation in America.

We know you confront an unprecedented set of challenges. We hope that in the midst of those challenges, you find a way to move one of the largest and most widely-supported conservation initiatives of our generation.

Sincerely,

***Please see below for signatures***

cc: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid  
House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer



Casey Sheahan  
CEO  
Patagonia, Inc.  
Ventura, CA



Tim Bartels  
VP of Sales  
Columbia Sportswear  
Portland, OR



Peter Metcalf  
Founder & CEO  
Black Diamond  
Salt Lake City, UT



Will Manzer  
CEO  
Eastern Mountain Sports  
Peterborough, NH



Mandy Cabot  
CEO  
Dansko  
West Grove, PA



Kirk Richardson  
Director of Corporate Responsibility  
KEEN Footwear  
Portland, OR



Bill Kulczycki  
President  
Filson  
Seattle, WA



Mike Steck  
VP of Marketing  
Yakima Products, Inc.  
Portland, OR



Brian Scranton  
Director of Marketing  
Chaco  
Paonia, CO



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Steamboat Springs, CO



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Sally McCoy  
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Elysia Hammond  
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Paige Boucher  
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Mountain Hardwear  
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Gareth Martins  
Director of Marketing  
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Jeff Wogoman  
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Boulder, CO



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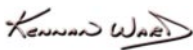
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