

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

December 6, 2021

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Senate Committee on Armed Services
228 Russel Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
House Committee on Armed Services
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Armed Services
228 Russel Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Ranking Member
House Committee on Armed Services
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Reed, Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Inhofe, and Ranking Member Rogers:

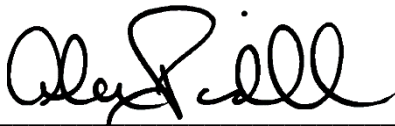
As you continue working towards the final Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), we request that you include our public lands bills in the final conference report. For the second year in a row and with bipartisan support, the House NDAA has included our public lands bills to protect special places in California.

Collectively, our bicameral bills would increase protections for over 1 million acres of federal public lands throughout Northwest California, the Central Coast, and Los Angeles. Our public lands bills are the result of decades of community engagement, and each enjoys the support of hundreds of local advocates, business leaders, and community groups who helped develop these proposals from the ground-up. They have now passed the House of Representatives four times, each time with bipartisan support. Our bills include:


- *Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act* (S. 1492/H.R. 2250) to protect 262,000 acres of public lands as wilderness and increase wildfire resiliency.
- *Central Coast Heritage Protection Act* (S. 1492/H.R. 973) to protect 319,382 acres of public lands as wilderness and protect the region's abundant biodiversity.
- *San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act* (S. 1492/H.R. 693) to expand the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument by over 109,000 acres and designate over 30,000 acres as wilderness, providing park-poor communities access to our public lands.
- *Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act* (S. 1769/H.R. 1075) to expand the boundary of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area by roughly 191,000 acres, increasing public land access for 47% of Californians who live within two hours of this area.

Our public lands are some of our nation's and state's greatest gifts – which is why we must be thoughtful stewards of these special places so that communities can continue to enjoy them and benefit from our rich natural heritage for generations to come. We respectfully and strongly urge you to support inclusion of a public lands package aligned with the House NDAA. Now is the time to advance these vital protections. Thank you for your consideration.

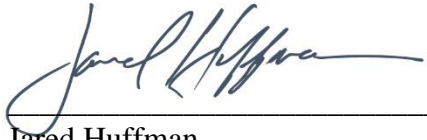
Sincerely,



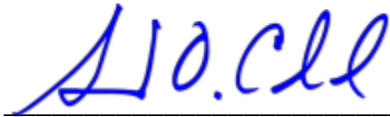
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress