Dear Members of the 112th Congress:

The 112th Congress is now in overtime, and yet its record of public land protection is headed for a historic low. If this Congress adjourns without taking action on two dozen bills introduced to protect America’s wilderness, this will be the first Congress since 1966 not to protect a single acre of wilderness.

Nearly 50 years ago, the Wilderness Act passed the House with one dissenting vote and passed the Senate 73-12. Protecting our dwindling patches of truly wild areas always gets bipartisan support at the local level – and it used to get bipartisan support in Washington as well. It is not too late to redeem this legacy.

There are dozens of bipartisan wilderness bills authored by Republicans and Democrats alike, pending before the Congress. Most of these bills have strong local support and are supported by the Representative and Senators representing the area. Advancing these bills will help build local economies, protect valuable open space, and preserve wonderful recreation opportunities for future generations.

The undersigned organizations urge you to take action in the final days of the 112th Congress to protect the places where our grandchildren will go to hike, camp, paddle, fish, and hunt. Please consider the pending wilderness legislation before Congress adjourns.

Sincerely,

The Wilderness Society
The Sierra Club
League of Conservation Voters
American Rivers
ConservAmerica

Defenders of Wildlife
Campaign for America’s Wilderness-Pew Environment Group
Conservation Lands Foundation
American Hiking Society
Agua Fria Open Space Alliance, Inc.
American Whitewater
Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics
Amigos Bravos
Arizona Wilderness Coalition
Biodiversity Conservation Alliance
Californians for Western Wilderness
California Wilderness Coalition
Cherokee Forest Voices
Citizens for Dixie’s Future
Conservation Colorado
Conservation Northwest
El Sendero
Friends of Cedar Mesa
Friends of Gold Butte
Friends of Ironwood Forest
Friends of Maine’s Seabird Islands
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks
Friends of San Pedro River
Friends of Sloan Canyon
Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument
Friends of the Cliffs
Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument
Friends of the Sonoran Desert National Monument
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council
Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Huachuca Audubon Society
Idaho Conservation League
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Montana Wilderness Association
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
Nevada Wilderness Project
NFRIA-WSERC Conservation Center
North Cascades Conservation Council
Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA)
Rivers & Birds
San Juan Citizens Alliance
Smith River Alliance
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
Southern Environmental Law Center
SouthWings
Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning
Tennessee Wild
The Mountaineers
Tuleyome
Washington Wild
Watauga Watershed Alliance
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
West Virginia Wilderness Coalition
Wild South
Wilderness Workshop
Winter Wildlands Alliance