

repetitious rhetoric. Let it suffice simply to state that I believe this area presently can be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System with a minimum of interference with other interests, it is needed for the purposes ascribed to the Wilderness System, and I sincerely hope the Committee will decide to include it in recommendations for additions to the System.

I am confident the considerable membership of several Southern California Camera Club Councils share my attitude with respect to this fine wilderness area.

Respectfully,

BURDETTE E. WHITE.

SANTA ANA, CALIF., *February 15, 1968.*

HON. FRANK CHURCH,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I have long enjoyed the trails in the beautiful mountains of San Gabriel. There could be no happier choice for an addition to the Wilderness than the San Gabriel area as provided by S. 2531.

I wish to go on record before your committee as approving this bill.

I hope for a favorable vote from the Committee.

Sincerely yours,

FERN ZIMMERMAN.

PORTLAND, OREG., *February 18, 1968.*

HON. FRANK CHURCH,
*Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR: Unfortunately I cannot be present in Washington tomorrow to attend the hearing on S. 2751, but I understand that you have generously agreed to receive written testimony. I did testify at the administrative hearing held by the Forest Service at Salem and my views are still unchanged. On the basis of a close familiarity with the Jefferson wilderness and the usage it receives I wish to stress as strongly as I can that the area proposed by the Administration is inadequate to protect the natural values which the Wilderness Act seeks to preserve. If buffer areas are not added to the west, as recommended by virtually all the conservation groups, the whole region, but particularly the narrow northern corridor, will be unable to sustain its wilderness character. Already over-usage is beginning to damage the fragile alpine meadows to the north of Mt. Jefferson, which are unique in the state. If day usage grows, as it surely will if the Whitewater Creek logging road is allowed to remain, not only will the wild character itself be dissipated, but the Forest Service will probably be forced to take protective measures which will themselves constitute a violation of the wilderness atmosphere.

There are countless Americans whose desire for outdoor experience is satisfied by the road and lakeside camping areas. But there is also a large and continually expanding number who desire a sterner, more individualistic experience, who shoulder their packs and seek the more remote and roadless areas. In doing so they are cultivating characteristics of independence, self-sufficiency, and adventurousness which we have always prized in this country and which if our moral strength is not to ebb away, we must continue to prize. Wilderness is intrinsic to the American character. There is very little of it left! Pressures on what there is, already heavy, will become destructive if the areas we set aside are not of sufficient size. Demand is doubling and tripling. Population is exploding. Those who would restrict the Jefferson wilderness area for the present short-term gain of a small section of the Oregon timber industry are guilty of a criminal contempt for long-term values. Since the Forest Service is under heavy local pressure from the lumber interests it is not surprising that their proposal has been so narrow; but the outlook in the United States Senate should be broad, and it is here that I sincerely hope the present and future interests of the people as a whole will be championed.

Yours faithfully,

T. PRICE ZIMMERMANN.