

The San Gabriel mountains are somewhat familiar to me from my childhood, and I rejoice to think that their unique wilderness qualities are likely to be preserved for posterity.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) SUSAN LUCA.

SEA AND SAGE,
BRANCH OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY,
Santa Ana, Calif., February 15, 1968.

HON. FRANK CHURCH,
Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: The Board of Directors of the Sea and Sage Audubon Society cannot have a representative present at the Senate Committee Hearing on the San Gabriel Wilderness proposal. Therefore, they are presenting their testimony in this letter.

They request that you place on the record that the Sea and Sage Audubon Society, Orange County branch of the National Audubon Society, gives full support to S. 2531.

Thank you for consideration of their wishes in this matter affecting America's wildland resources.

Sincerely yours,

LOIS LOUGHRAN,
Corresponding Secretary.

PORTLAND, OREG., March 2, 1968.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Public Lands Subcommittee.

DEAR SIR: I am writing in connection with the recent hearings on Senate Bill S. 2751 on the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness Area in Oregon. Please include this letter in the record of the hearing.

I feel strongly that the proposed Wilderness area is too narrow and thus allows access to Jefferson Park too easily. This park is one of the most beautiful spots in the whole Pacific Northwest. However, it is already overused and is suffering the consequences of erosion and despoliation by too many campsites, etc. With wilderness usage increasing even farther than population, this situation is bound to deteriorate even further if access remains easy.

Therefore, I strongly urge inclusion of the area labeled "14b" on the enclosed map in the Wilderness area.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL LITT.
GAINESVILLE, FLA.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: This letter concerns the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness, now being considered for its final status.

I am originally from Oregon. Living now in Florida has made me more acutely aware of how crucial it is that we preserve as much wild mountain country as is possible. This works two ways. In my own case, absence makes the heart grow fonder—I miss the mountains, and the thought of their demise in my absence is painful. Living in flatland, I cherish the mountains of Oregon perhaps more than I ever did. It is no small statement that my spirit is powerfully uplifted by knowing that huge, grand country exists out there in the Pacific Northwest. Besides my own reactions and feelings about Oregon's wild mountain country, I want to relate what native Floridians have to say. I was surprised to find out the number of people who have visited Oregon who constantly remark to me, "Great country, so wild and big! Your mountains! All those trees!" Small talk? I believe not! I am convinced that these native Floridians have also gotten a great spiritual uplift from seeing and feeling the grand Northwest country. Though they live in Florida, where no point is above 325' above sea level, I fully believe that they carry in their minds a kind of philosophical reverence for such "strange and different" country. That is, the country they saw become a