

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIF., February 22, 1968.

Senator FRANK CHURCH,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular
Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR CHURCH: I wish to add my voice to those who are supporting S. 2531 which would establish the San Gabriel Wilderness Area. I have personally visited the area and feel that it qualifies for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Lying less than 40 miles from the Los Angeles City Hall, the proposed wilderness would be one of few such areas in the United States immediately adjacent to a major city. It is one of the few wilderness areas in the nation where people can hike, camp, and enjoy the natural environment in the Winter time.

The proposed wilderness offers much to many people. To families it offers camping and walking besides clear mountain streams with waterfalls and cascading waterslides; for the fisherman, wary, native trout lie in wait; for the mountain climber are challenging crags culminating in Twin Peaks; for the natural scientist is a variety of flora and fauna still virtually undisturbed in a natural setting including the Nelson bighorn sheep very much in need of protection. The necessary summer and fall closures give added protection to the watershed and ecological values which are equally important as important as the recreational value.

I urge that the Senate Committee of Interior and Insular Affairs report this bill to the floor favorably with the least possible delay and request that this letter be made a part of the hearings held during the past week in Washington, D.C. by the Senate Public Lands Subcommittee.

Respectfully submitted.

CLARK H. JONES.

SAN LEANDRO, CALIF., February 21, 1968.

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

GENTLEMEN: Having recently read a report fully describing the proposed San Gabriel Wilderness in California, I wish to say that I am fully in favor of making this area a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, with complete wilderness status, and full protection.

The fact that there are some small herds of Nelson bighorn sheep in the San Gabriel area is, in itself, an excellent reason for preserving the area. These beautiful animals, with their graceful horns and stately appearance, are one of the most beautiful animals of North America. They deserve to be protected.

And there is also the beautiful scenery itself, mountains, canyons, covered with chaparral, Douglas fir, and many other magnificent trees.

In fact, the San Gabriel wilderness is a lovely region in every way, and I hope that all conservationists will support it.

Respectfully,

ALBERT F. JONES.

LAKE FOREST, ILL., February 21, 1968.

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

DEAR SENATOR CHURCH: We would be pleased to have this letter added to the hearing record in support of S. 2531, proposing to add the San Gabriel Wilderness of 36,137 acres to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

We heartily endorse the Forest Service proposal for the San Gabriel Wilderness. The area has been maintained as the Devil's Canyon-Bear Creek Primitive Area for years, and with the addition of the Bobcat Canyon area is entirely suitable to be maintained as Wilderness forever. The area has no roads, no human "improvements", no deposits of commercial minerals and no timber suitable for logging.

Its wilderness values are of high quality and it has been used by outdoorsmen of the Los Angeles basin for packing in and camping for years. And the seriously overcrowded Los Angeles basin is in desperate need of a few wilderness