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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

October 21, 2009

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The Honorable David R. Obey  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
B-308, Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies  
B-308, Rayburn HOB  
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The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20215

Dear Ranking Member Lewis and Ranking Member Simpson:

As you continue to work through the House and Senate Conference Committee on the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriation bill, I strongly urge you to maintain Section 430 (Cabin User Fees) of the Senate-passed bill (HR 2996 EAS). Maintaining this bipartisan section, which was added to HR 2996 as an amendment by Senators Tester (D-MT) and Crapo (R-ID), would provide owners of private cabins on U.S. Forest Service land much-needed relief from drastic changes in permit fees that will be levied in the next year. This provision would also allow Congress time to develop a more equitable fee structure to reflect what was intended in the Cabin User Fee Fairness Act of 2000.

The Recreation Residence Program was created to encourage private stewardship on our public lands. These family cabins have provided multiple generations with a stake in the health of our forests, and their owners are important partners for our public agencies. I have been contacted by many long-time cabin owners who say they simply cannot afford the planned increased fees. As I have expressed before in letters to USDA officials, I have concerns that responsible cabin owners with multi-generational ties to their respective areas may simply be forced to sell their cabins to the highest bidder, and this would have the effect of terminating the intent of the program.

I appreciate your support on this important matter as you work on an agreement in the Conference Committee. Thank you again for your commitment to Oregon's cabin users. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or your staff can contact Nathan Rea in my D.C. office at (202) 226-5234 or by email at [Nathan.rea@mail.house.gov](mailto:Nathan.rea@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

Greg Walden  
Member of Congress