



California Ski Industry Association

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October 4, 2013

The Honorable Doc Hastings
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC

Re: Support for HR 3189

Dear Chairman Hastings,

On behalf of the members and directors of the California Ski Industry Association I am writing to add our support to H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act.

This narrowly focused bill is designed to resolve an unfair regulation requiring Forest Service permittees to cede, without compensation, their water rights to the agency. Nineteen of California's twenty-six ski areas operate on Forest Service lands. We have a long history of working with the agency and will continue to do so in the future. However, our winter sports facilities on federal lands are strongly opposed to the clauses that would require California permittees to cede their valuable water rights to the agency without compensation. Such clauses represent a taking and carry far-reaching legal and economic implications, not only for our industry but also for all other permittees operating on Forest Service lands.

A recent study by San Francisco State University reported that California's winter sports resorts generate \$1.3 billion in economic activity and over 16,000 jobs in our mountain communities. Our resorts have millions of dollars invested in their water rights. In many cases the source of these rights are located outside of the permit boundaries.

We appreciate your scheduling a hearing on H.R. 3189 and thank your and the sponsors of this important legislation.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and lines, positioned above the printed name.

Bob Roberts
President & CEO

cc: The Honorable Tom McClintock
The Honorable Jared Huffman