



**PNSAA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dave Rathbun
Mt. Bachelor
PNSAA Chairman

Kevin McCarthy*
White Pass
Vice Chairman
PNSAA - Washington Zone
Chairman

Kim Clark
Mt. Ashland
PNSAA Treasurer & Secretary

Tim Wiper
Willamette Pass
PNSAA - Oregon Zone
Chairman

John Eminger
49° North
Immediate Past Chairman

Dan Brewster
The Summit at Snoqualmie
At-Large

Matthew Drake *
Mt. Hood Meadows
At-Large

Kirk Hanna
Mt. Hood Skibowl
At-Large

Gwyn Howat
Mt. Baker
At-Large

John Gifford
PNSAA President

* Member of NSAA Board of Directors

**PNSAA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**
Post Office Box 758
La Conner, WA 98257
877.533.5520 (voice)
877.559.2847 (fax)

www.pnsaa.org

September 26, 2013

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

RE: HR 3189/Water Rights Protection Act

Dear Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of ski areas in the Pacific Northwest operating on National Forest System lands. PNSAA represents 34 ski resorts in Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho, Montana and California. Of the 34 members 30 operate on public land.

PNSAA supports HR 3189/Water Rights Protection Act that would prohibit the Forest Service from issuing permit clauses that require ski areas to transfer ownership of valuable water rights to the United States without compensation. Water is crucial to ski area operations. Ski areas collectively hold water rights worth over a hundred million dollars. We developed these rights through our own effort and expense, and we have no intention of surrendering ownership of these water rights to the US without compensation.

We would like to thank you for your leadership on protecting ski area water rights. It means a great deal to PNSAA and all ski areas across the country operating on NFS lands.

Best Regards,

PACIFIC NORTHWEST SKI AREAS ASSOCIATION

John A. Gifford
President