



October 9, 2024

The Honorable Speaker Mike Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
568 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Katherine Clark
Minority Whip U.S. House of Representatives
2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise
Majority Leader U. S. House of Representatives
2049 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader U.S. House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker of the House Johnson, Minority Whip Clark, Majority Leader Scalise, and Minority Leader Jeffries,

On behalf of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition, and other river partners across the country, we respectfully request that the House act this year to pass the ten river bills listed below either as part of the National Defense Authorization Act or other must-pass legislation this Congress. These measures preserve rivers and streams that provide clean drinking water for downstream communities and farms, mitigate against flooding, and support a thriving outdoor recreation economy.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition represents more than 60 local, state, and national organizations that support Wild and Scenic River protection and stewardship. Collectively, our members advocate for clean water and free-flowing rivers across the country through grassroots community engagement.

Washington

1. **Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act H.R. 2765** - 464 river miles, 19 rivers and major tributaries flowing within and out of Olympic National Park.

Oregon

2. [Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act H.R. 6595](#) - 75 river miles, permanent mineral withdrawal for 58,000 acres.
3. [Southwestern Oregon Watershed and Salmon Protection Act H.R. 5004](#) - 60,000 acres of wilderness, 128,000 acres of new riverside recreation areas, and a permanent mineral withdrawal for 101,000 acres at the headwaters of several Southwestern Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers.

California

4. [Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act H.R. 3700](#) - 480 river miles, 312,000 acres of wilderness, 360-mile Big Foot National Recreation Trail.
5. [Central Coast Heritage Protection Act H.R. 2545](#) - 159 river miles, 287,000 acres of wilderness, 400-mile Condor National Recreation Trail.
6. [San Gabriel Mountains Protection Act H.R. 3681](#) - 45.5 river miles, 30,000 acres of wilderness, 109,000 acres of National Monument lands, 49,000 acres of National Recreation Area lands.

Colorado

7. [Dolores River National Conservation Area and Special Management Area Act H.R. 1534](#) - 68,000 acre National Conservation Area and Special Management Area on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands, protecting the free-flowing character of 76 miles of the Dolores River.

New Mexico

8. [M.H. Dutch Salmon Greater Gila Wild and Scenic River Act H.R. 1611](#) - 450 river miles, 144,000 acres of riverside land.

Massachusetts

9. [Deerfield River Wild and Scenic River Study Act H.R. 1312](#) - initiates a Wild and Scenic River study for 76 miles of the Deerfield River.

Vermont

10. [Nulhegan and Paul Stream Wild and Scenic River Designation H.R. 1063](#) - initiates a Wild and Scenic River study for a 22-mile segment of the Nulhegan River and an 18-mile segment of the Paul Stream.

Thank you for your leadership in making sure these important bills are considered this year by Congress.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the following members of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition:

- Sarah Kilbourne, Executive Director, **American Packrafting Association**, Missoula, MT
- David Moryc, National River Protection Director, **American Rivers**, Washington D.C.
- Kevin Colburn, National Stewardship Director, **American Whitewater**, Asheville, NC
- Joseph Zupan, Executive Director, **Amigos Bravos**, Taos, NM
- André Sanchez, Community Engagement & Conservation Policy Manager, **CalWild**, Madera, CA
- Christopher Curtis, Vice President, **Deerfield River Watershed Association**, Deerfield, MA
- Alison Sommers-Sayre, Executive Director, **Delaware River Greenway Partnership**, Stockton, NJ
- Aimee Petras, Executive Director, Farmington River Watershed Association, Simsbury, CT
- Dr. Denielle Perry, Associate Professor, Director, **Free-flowing Rivers Lab, School of Earth and Sustainability, Northern Arizona University**, Flagstaff, AZ
- Ronald Stork, Policy Staff, **Friends of the River**, Sacramento, CA
- Fred Akers, Operations Manager, **Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association**, Newtonville, NJ

- Erin Steva, Montana Conservation Associate, **Greater Yellowstone Coalition**, Bozeman, MT
- Nick Kunath, Conservation Director, **Idaho Rivers United**, Boise, ID
- Mark Allison, Executive Director & Bjorn Fredrickson, Conservation Director, **New Mexico Wild**, Albuquerque, NM
- Grant Werschull, Co-Executive Director, **Smith River Alliance**, Crescent City, CA
- Patrick Lane, Senior Officer, **The Pew Charitable Trusts**, Washington DC
- Tom Uniack, Executive Director, **Washington Wild**, Seattle, WA
- Ashley Konon, River Ambassador, **Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System**, Sanford, FL
- Autumn Crowe, Deputy Director, **West Virginia Rivers Coalition**, Charleston, WV
- Shane Morgan, Program Director, **White Clay Watershed Association**, Landenberg, PA