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To: **NFH Directors and Ambassadors, C2 Coalition Group and C2 State and Regional Coordinators**

Thu, Dec 23, 2010 2:17 pm

Subject: CFA & Fee Moratorium Update!

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Holiday Greetings to All,

The Lame Duck session of the 111th Congress did not result in the passage of the Cabin Fee Act, nor the passage of a cabin fee moratorium. The following report from our Washington Representative, Mr. Aubrey King was received this morning.

On December 21st, Congress passed and President Obama signed into law a Continuing Resolution or "CR" to continue funding the Federal government at 2010 levels until March 4, 2011. The new 112th Congress will then have to approve funding through the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2011.

The March 4 CR does not contain a moratorium on cabin fee increases for 2011, which was included in two other appropriations bills that were not passed. This was because Congress wanted to keep this short term moratorium "clean," with minimal amendments.

This means that until Congress takes further action, the Forest Service can legally impose the fee increases required for 2011 under CUFFA.

The FS has not announced what it will do but it appears doubtful that the agency will send out bills for higher fees at least in the short term (3-4 months). The FS has already sent out 2011 bills with 2010 fee levels and they will probably not want to repeat the billing process quickly and have to deal with the administrative problems that would result. This is particularly the case since Congress may revisit the moratorium in its March appropriations legislation. Further complicating the outlook for the FS is the likelihood that the new Congress is expected to take early action on Cabin Fee Act, which would then require a complete recalculation of all fees.

The NFH and the C2 Coalition are working with the FS to clarify the agency's intentions and urge that no further bills be sent to cabin owners until the outlook in Congress is clearer. At the same time, NFH and C2 are working with key Members of Congress in support of another moratorium in March and to move the CFA as expeditiously as possible. Aubrey King, Dec. 22, 2010.

With this report, we remain undaunted. Given the changes in Congress for next year, we are now revising our 'game plan' for a new grassroots effort early in the New Year. We fully expect the Cabin Fee Act to be re-introduced in both the House (Cong. Doc Hastings, R-WA) and the Senate (Sen. John Tester, D-MT) early in the next Congress. Also, we anticipate a Senate hearing to be scheduled as soon as scheduling permits. Overall, we are optimistic that the next Congress will support and favor passage of the Cabin Fee Act.

By mid-January, you will receive another update that will outline our expected efforts focused on the 112th Congress. Our very important grassroots 'base of support' will once again be asked to perform. We will need your continuing efforts to press for passage of the CFA. Please make a point of doing your part when the requests are made.

And finally, another phase of fund raising will be needed. Our advocate contracts are expensive, but essential. Without our lobbyists, we would not have progressed as far as we have. These relationships must continue. We will also need to maintain vigilance following passage to ensure the rules and

regulations accurately reflect the legislation. All of this costs dearly. Please consider another donation individually and certainly from your cabin tract associations. The January update will reaffirm this need.

Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

Regards, **Pete**

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