

March 22, 2010

NFH HAILS INTRODUCTION OF CABIN FEE ACT OF 2010

National Forest Homeowners President Geoffrey Anderson today hailed the introduction of the bipartisan Cabin Fee Act of 2010, by Representative Doc Hastings (R-WA). Congressman Hastings was joined by Democrat Representative Jim Costa of California and ten other Members of Congress as original cosponsors of the bill.

Anderson added, "This historic legislation will establish a new fair and reasonable structure for determining the annual permit fees paid by cabin owners throughout the country. In the past few years, sharply escalating fees have threatened too many with the loss of cabins that have been in their families for generations. The Cabin Fee Act of 2010 will preserve a program that for nearly a century has provided outdoor recreation for thousands of American families."

The Cabin Fee Act of 2010 will replace the Cabin Fee Fairness Act of 2000, which requires that permit fees for cabins on the national forests be determined by appraisals comparing them with fee simple private property. Such appraisals fail to consider fully and fairly the extraordinary limits and restrictions on the use of these cabins and recent appraisals have resulted in many annual fees increasing more than 500%.

H.R. 4888 will combine a simple, fair and predictable tiered fee structure with a new transfer fee that would be based on the actual value of a cabin as demonstrated by the price paid when the cabin permit changes hands. The transfer fee will therefore accurately capture for the government the fair value provided by the cabin's location on a national forest. The result will a positive outcome for everyone concerned as the cabin owner will be able to continue enjoying this superb family recreation opportunity, the national forests will continue to benefit from the historic stewardship contribution of cabin owners, local communities near the national forests will continue to benefit from the purchases of cabin owners, local governments will benefit from the tax revenue and the U.S. taxpayer will receive a fair return for this use of their land.

NFH President Anderson stated, "On behalf of cabin owners everywhere, the NFH thanks Representatives Hastings and Costa and the other co sponsors for realizing the threat cabin owners face from excessive fee increases and for their vision in introducing this historic legislation. We pledge our full support and look forward to working with him and others in Congress to get the Cabin Fee Act of 2010 passed into law."

Download a copy of HB 4888 at

<http://www.nationalforesthowners.org/pdfs/hr4888.pdf>