

Your return address

Date

Senator Patty Murray  
172 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

Re: Forest Service Fees for Summer Homes/Cabins

As a constituent and cabin owner, I am requesting your assistance to avoid being priced out of my cabin on the east side of White Pass. I have owned this cabin for 34 years and I am becoming very alarmed and concerned over the direction the Forest Service has taken in setting fees.

#### BACKGROUND

We are on a "Special Use Permit" from the Forest Service which allows us to construct improvements on a lot in the forest. There is no infrastructure provided to these lots by the Forest Service, i.e., access road, water, power, sewer, fire protection, phone, road plowing in the winter, etc. Furthermore, we have limited use, i.e., cannot use as a primary residence, can have our permit terminated with compensation on a 10 year notice (and then, to add insult to injury, be required to remove all improvements and restore the land.)

There are two major areas that must be addressed if we are to have viable economic ability to continue holding on to our summer homes/cabins.

1. Recognize that in this distorted, inflated real estate market, using 5% of appraised value is not a reasonable basis for setting fees—I would suggest an independent appraiser might more realistically arrive at something in the order of 2 ½% as being a more realistic and reasonable basis with further adjustments to reflect the limited 10 year guaranteed use period.
2. The comparable sales that are being used by the Forest Service are unrealistic. The comparable sales are for fee simple ownership with no restrictions on use and all infrastructures provided in the sale price of the subject comparable sale.

The values that the Forest Service are coming up with are so ludicrous that there are no buyers should the cabin owner wish to throw in the towel and sell his summer home to get out from under this onerous burden.

This cabin means a great deal to my family—my wife and I were married there, my oldest daughter was married there, and my second daughter is planning her wedding this summer around the cabin. It is a place of many happy memories and the place where we hold an extended family gathering each summer.

#### ACTION REQUESTED

Please do anything possible to assist us in our plight. Contacting Agriculture Department Under Secretary Mark Rey and asking him about these problems would be a good place to start.

I want to thank you for any assistance you can offer in mitigating what has become a very serious issue.

Sincerely

xxxxxxxxxx

