



HEALTHY PEOPLE. HEALTHY COMMUNITIES.

David Fleming, MD, Director and Health Officer

April 27, 2007

The Honorable Doc Hastings
U.S. House of Representatives
1214 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: HR 1285 (Snoqualmie Pass Land Conveyance Act)

Dear Representative Hastings:

I am writing in support of HR 1285 (Snoqualmie Pass Land Conveyance Act), which would transfer land in the Snoqualmie Pass, Washington area to King and Kittitas Counties Fire Protection District #51 (Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue). This conveyance of a small parcel of public land currently administered by the U.S. Forest Service will enable this fire protection district to improve fire station facilities, and provide better service on Snoqualmie Pass.

Fire District #51 is located on Snoqualmie Pass, in the Cascade Mountains, right on Interstate 90, the major freeway between Seattle, Tacoma, Everett and the Puget Sound Basin and Eastern Washington. It is certainly one of the busiest Interstates in the nation. Snoqualmie Pass itself provides four season recreation with ski resorts, an alpine wilderness area, lakes, and streams.

Fire District #51 provides both fire protection and emergency medical services to that area. It is a small, volunteer department, with limited tax resources and the huge job of responding to fire and EMS needs of citizens who are driving through on I-90, in the area for recreational purposes, or for those who live there. King County currently helps this department directly in a modest way with funding from a regional emergency medical services levy and with paramedic services (operated by Bellevue Fire Department) which are based in North Bend and funded from the same regional levy.

The Snoqualmie Pass Land Conveyance would greatly assist this department, and allow them to modernize and upgrade their current fire station. I urge support for this measure.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hearne
Division Director

Cc: The Honorable Dave Reichert
Chris Caveziel, Fire Commissioner, Fire District #51
Matt Cowan, Fire Chief, Fire District #51

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