

IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE

Creation of a North Cascades National Park, to be considered by the Senate tomorrow, was strongly opposed by the Industrial Forestry Association in a telegram to Senator Henry M. Jackson today.

The telegram, from W. D. Hagenstein, executive vice president, charged that the bill would dismember three Washington national forests and would seriously affect employment opportunities in northern Washington. The message called any legislation "premature" until full study of the resources of the area can be made.

Text of the telegram follows:

"We cannot support revised S. 1321, reported by your Committee, for three reasons. First, it would dismember three of Washington's national forests. When Congress created national forests 70 years ago it promised local communities that their resources would be managed and harvested for development and sustenance of their economies. Second, to date the resources of the North Cascades have only been examined for a restricted recreation potential. Until they are examined for their forestry, mining, water and full recreation potential, any legislation is premature. Third, Washington's billion dollar a year forest industry with its 70,000 jobs and \$479 million annual payroll is too important as a source of employment and stability for many communities including Seattle and Tacoma to write it out of business by further dismemberment of Washington's national forests. We urge no action on S. 1321 until Congress has authorized comprehensive study of all the alternative uses of the Federal lands in the North Cascades and their potential contribution to Washington's economy through a balance of opportunities for employment and recreation."