

I wanted to let you know that I recently joined several other members of the House in writing a letter to members of the United States Senate expressing concerns about President Obama's nomination of Ms. Rebecca Wodder as Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks at the Department of the Interior. Normally I do not feel the need to comment on agency nominees and I appreciate the unique role of the Senate in the confirmation process. Nonetheless, the policies previously advocated by this nominee would be so detrimental to jobs, our economy and the livelihood of rural Americans that I felt compelled to join other Members of Congress to make our views known.

This position is responsible for supervising the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and many federal conservation programs administered by the Department of Interior – all of which significantly affect the economy and property rights in rural Northern California. Ms. Wodder's current position as the head of American Rivers, a Washington, DC-based national activist group that has repeatedly litigated against the federal government in favor of removing critical energy and flood control infrastructure, and her past work with the Wilderness Society raise serious concerns about a potential bias against multiple use and access that this nominee may bring to this important position.

One of American Rivers' pending cases against the federal government would dismantle four dams on the Snake River in Washington State in an attempt to "bring back the Salmon." The organization, however, disregards the fact that there is no scientific evidence to support this assertion. Considering the viewpoints and activism of this group, I am concerned that Ms. Wodder would be unable to pursue a balanced approach that protects energy projects, private property rights, and water rights.

Ms. Wodder's nomination is currently under consideration by the Senate Committees on Energy and Natural Resources and the Environment and Public Works. While I am not a member of the Senate, I will continue to do all I can to express concern about this nomination and support balanced land management policies that encourage economic prosperity and protect private property rights in Northern California.