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September 27, 2006

Senators:

Thank you for the opportunity to talk with you about Stanley, Idaho. Most have probably never heard of it and few will ever visit it, but to those of us who live, work or play there, I can tell you we will never forget it and we will do everything in our power to sustain and protect it.

Twelve years ago I visited Red Fish Lake and knew immediately that this was my home, where I was meant to be. I am building a contracting business and I have two part-time jobs. One of them is working at the largest motel/restaurant in town, the Mountain Village Inn. Everyday I see who visits, who stays and who spends their money in our community. Tourism is the life blood of Stanley—without it, only a few could afford to stay.

The majority of visitors come to recreate and they do it in every imaginable way; they ride horses, dirt motorcycles, mountain bikes, ATVs and snowmobiles. They raft rivers, hike, fish and hunt. All contribute to the economy of the community but without question, those that prefer motorized vehicles both summer and winter stay longer and spend more. The number of motorized recreationists increases each year and each year we see more families with motorized vehicles.

In the past, Stanley closed down for the winter. But today, thanks to the popularity of snowmobiling, Stanley has a thriving winter economy. Every year the popularity of

snowmobile riding in the White Cloud Mountains increases because it provides a unique outdoor experience. These mountains are also incredibly popular with the summer crowd. Year after year, whether on foot, horseback, mountain bike or motorized vehicle they come to enjoy the Boulder White Clouds as they are today.

You can well imagine that Congressman Mike Simpson's proposed wilderness bill for the Boulder White Cloud Mountains has caused quite a stir in our community. It has been debated and discussed from one end of the town to the other.

Originally our City Council passed a resolution that "enthusiastically supported" the Central Idaho Economic and Recreation Act (CIEDRA), but on Sunday, September 15 after considerable public input, the Council changed its position and passed a new resolution that supports only the land parcel transfers to Stanley. They no longer support CIEDRA's other components, including the wilderness in the present bill. The issue was reconsidered by the City Council because 11 Stanley businesses, another 7 from the Sawtooth Valley, and 57 residents signed letters and a petition opposing CIEDRA. Now 57 signatures may not sound like much to you but in the last city council election there were just over 70 votes. I would be glad to supply copies of the letters and the petition to anyone interested. We might be a small community of only 100 people but we have over 1 1/2 million visitors a year to the Sawtooth Valley.

CIEDRA is a bad piece of legislation and will be especially bad for communities like Stanley. We don't want or need a Boulder White Cloud wilderness under any name.

Those opposing CIEDRA do so because of the give away of public lands, limitation on access for recreation, and the locking up of more than 300,000 acres of land in the Boulder White Cloud Mountains for wilderness that isn't needed. We

already have wilderness all around us, the Sawtooth and the Frank Church Wilderness are just outside our doors. If wilderness were good for the economy, we wouldn't need more because our economy would be booming. It isn't and more wilderness won't make it happen. What we need is what we have, access to the Boulder White Clouds where people can come and play and stay in Stanley.

I certainly don't want to sound ungrateful to Congressman Simpson, the economic benefits promised to Stanley are definitely needed. We need affordable housing, and city facilities and a trail between Red Fish Lake and Stanley would be wonderful but the trade-offs are too great. What we would lose is our long term economic survival. Changing the management of the Boulder White Clouds has little or no benefit for Stanley. We cannot afford that. It isn't easy making a living in a small rural mountain community that is surrounded by public land but it is possible, if we have access to the land for a variety of users including motorized. That is what we need for long-term economic survival.

Please don't pass CIEDRA. I work three jobs now and if CIEDRA passes I would lose those jobs and most likely have to leave Stanley. But as important as that is, what is most important is the survival of our community and our way of life. We have built an economy on recreation that includes both summer and winter motorized and mechanized uses. Don't take that away from us!