



121 East Railroad Ave. Port Angeles, Washington 98362  
360-452-2363

October 2, 2012

Dear Port Angeles City Council Members:

With Olympic National Park, Olympic National Forest and DNR acreage making up the bulk of the land area of the Olympic Peninsula, the Chamber has been closely watching the process regarding the changes being proposed to these public lands.

Upon review of the most current Wild Olympics legislation being proposed, it is evident that a compromise is being offered to the Wild Olympics Coalition as well as an attempt to appease the Olympic Peninsula Timber Industry.

After discussing this proposed legislation with the Chamber's Board of Directors, which is a representative cross section of the business community, there remain serious concerns to whether the proposed changes will truly be beneficial to the health of the forests. It is also believed that these changes will have a adverse impact to current forest industry jobs, which are of primary concern to many residents in the area.

The question that remains is why this legislation is needed. The one-million-plus acres that are currently are in place with ONP, ONF, and DNR are very underutilized and the wilderness areas are some of the most pristine in the country. If the proposed legislation were to become law, tourism access to the wilderness will be more difficult due to removal of access roads. Plus the idea of increasing the buffer zones of the rivers will not necessarily benefit tourism.

As an organization focused on jobs and the business environment, we question that the Olympic Peninsula will benefit by the changes being proposed. As you consider taking a formal position on the current Wild Olympics legislation, we ask that you keep in mind the jobs of the forest and timber industry and the importance of this business sector to the health of our region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Kuh", written in a cursive style.

Brian Kuh  
*President*  
Port Angeles Regional Chamber of Commerce