

SAMPLE LETTER OPPOSING H.R. 1349 TO SEND TO REPRESENTATIVES

<<PLEASE PERSONALIZE THE TEXT BELOW>>

Dear <<NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE>>:

As your constituent, I respectfully ask you note my opposition to H.R. 1349 and vote against this bill. I write from the perspective of an avid hiker of the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) and as a volunteer trail maintainer for several years.

H.R. 1349 would allow mountain bikes and other wheeled transports into Wilderness Areas. As such, the legislation could dramatically affect the A.T. hiking experience, generate safety issues and surely undo the backbreaking work volunteer trail maintainers conduct each year.

In 1964, the Wilderness Act created a thoughtful and reasonable way of protecting America's most pristine places, recognizing the importance of destinations that offer solitude, contemplation and scenic beauty. And for more than 50 years later the Act continues to welcome generations of Americans to special places that offer retreat from the hustle-and-bustle of daily life. Notably, the Act does not restrict access but defines sensible standards to protect the integrity of these extraordinary places.

Four years later in 1968, Congress passed the National Trails System Act "to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Nation," creating the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, and opening the door to the creation of an impressive national trails system that honors scenic values, history and heritage, and diverse recreational pursuits. The A.T.'s appeal to travelers worldwide is that is a footpath, solely, for its entire course of 2,191 miles.

Please honor the Congressional intent which created the A.T. in 1968 and please honor those who enjoy its recreational benefits and those who volunteer long hours to maintain it. I thank you for voting against H.R. 1349.

Sincerely,

<<YOUR NAME>>

<<YOUR ADDRESS>>