



Office of the President

Mark L. Cline
President

H.R. 3881
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Chairman and Committee members,

Thank you for the invitation to come here today and testify about Bill 3881. As you are all aware the National Forest system was designed to manage the natural resources, recreation, grazing wildlife, fish and more.

The Allegheny National Forest is unique with its vast oil and gas minerals lying beneath it and 93% of those rights belonging to private citizens. There were wells already drilled on the property before the Forest Service took over. At the present time there are approximately 12,000 oil and gas wells in the Allegheny National Forest. The Industry figures around half of those 12,000 wells were Hydraulically Fracked. A recent study concluded that despite the long history of conventional well development in the region, the ANF's streams, trees and other natural resources have prospered. The study states despite the tens of thousands of conventional oil and gas wells in operation in the region, a full 72% of the 2,126 miles of mapped streams in the ANF were rated as high value or exceptional value for water quality.

The first Chief of the Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot said and I quote "National Forest Land is managed to provide the greatest amount of good for the greatest amount of people in the long run". Now you are probably thinking that only the oil and gas operators are the ones benefitting from the use of the minerals under the Forest. That thought is completely wrong. The story from Northwestern Pennsylvania is our Penn Grade Crude oil, which by the way is the best lubricating oil in the world, played a huge part in both World Wars. It was used exclusively in the engines that ran the trucks and equipment in the first war. The second war it played a much bigger part as airplanes became so important. They say if you would ask an Army Airforce mechanic from World War 2 he would tell you they only used oil from Pennsylvania. It helped the planes fly more mission without having engine problems. It was used by the Army in their trucks and tanks which supported the

soldiers. The same can be said about Korea and the Vietnam Wars. 15 to 20% of that oil came from the Allegheny National Forest. I think Gifford Pinchot would say “that the oil was used for the greatest amount of good for the greatest amount of people”.

People still benefit every day from the oil and gas. Natural gas is used for heating homes, buildings, hospitals and schools. It is used to generate electricity, it fuels vehicles, heats water, bakes food, powers industrial furnaces and even powers air conditioners.

Our paraffin based crude oil is turned into over 6,000 different products. Without crude oil this country would come to a complete stand still. From the time you wake up in the morning from the sound of your alarm clock, take a shower, eat breakfast and get into your car you have already used over 40 products made from crude oil. So don't you ever think or let someone tell you we are the only ones benefitting from the minerals under the ANF.

The Industry has spent vast amounts of money defending our rights to produce in the ANF. These rights were given to us years ago and have been upheld by the Courts. This Bill will protect those rights. Please vote to approve this Bill.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to be here today.

Mark Cline