



IBEW LOCAL 191

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

2701 Hoyt Ave. • Everett, WA 98201 • (425) 259-3195 • Fax (425) 339-9188

March 6, 2008

Representative Rick Larsen
U.S. House of Representatives
107 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Larsen:

It has come to our attention that there is a growing call for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with other state and federal agencies, to take meaningful steps to save and begin to recover the remnant grizzly bear population in the North Cascades. The members of IBEW Local 191 would like to let you know of our support for management measures on behalf of those grizzly bears as well. Union members across the country support other conservation issues through their partnership between Union Sportsman Alliance and Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. We value our wild lands.

As you know, there are only a handful of grizzly bears left in Washington, and this is the only population of grizzlies remaining in the contiguous United States outside of the northern Rockies. Our members, who fish, hunt, and recreate extensively in the North Cascades, recognize that it is a landscape of far more than mountains, forest, and rivers. It is also home to wildlife, and surely grizzly bears are every bit as integral to this magnificent landscape as the rivers we fish. As you know, the recovery area encompasses most of the counties that make up Local 191's jurisdiction. We hope that future generations will be able to experience a wild North Cascades shared with grizzly bears, as we still can, rather than a less wild place devoid of the great bear.

Please respond to the following address if marked:

BELLINGHAM OFFICE
1700 State Street • Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 734-3372 • Fax (360) 734-6997





WENATCHEE OFFICE
27 N. Chelan Ave. • Wenatchee, WA 98801
(509) 663-1163 • Fax (509) 664-7236


Please ask the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to initiate an Environmental Impact Statement to address the plight of North Cascades grizzly bears and to implement management measures toward saving and recovering this population.

Thank you very much, Representative Larsen, for being a champion for Washington's last grizzly bears.

Sincerely,


David J. Howson
Business Manager


Darrell Chapman
Vice President


Joe E. Peters
President

CC: Ken Berg
Washington State Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Lacey, WA 98503