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California State Senate

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WESLEY CHESBRO
SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT

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HOMES
RURAL EDUCATION

April 22, 2002



Postmarked April 24, 2002

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Al Hess
Program Manager - Lands, Oils and Minerals
U.S. Forest Service
1190 East Ojai Avenue
Ojai, CA 93023

Dear Mr. Hess:

I received a letter from a constituent about the possibility of the U.S. Forest Service leasing land in Los Padres National Forest for oil drilling. I would like to express my deep concern and opposition to such a proposal.

Drilling for oil in California and off the California coastline is unnecessary and I believe will prove more damaging than beneficial. The proposal to study the possible leasing of land in the Los Padres National Forest should not go forward. The amount of oil that may be available in the Los Padres National Forest is not sufficient to account for the damage drilling will do to the environment. The drilling of oil would not only affect wildlife and vegetation but will also substantially impact the recreational value of California.

While this is only a proposal to study the possibility of leasing land, it is important that this issue is dealt with and halted. The effects that oil drilling has on the environment have already been proven and it is not worth the risk to endanger our national forests.

Please add my testimony to the public record for the final decision process that is to be completed this summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wesley Chesbro".

WESLEY CHESBRO
State Senator, 2nd District

WC: ef/jl

cc: David MacPhail

