Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 30, 2010

Tina Terrell, Forest Supervisor
Sequoia National Forest
1839 South Newcomb Street
Porterville, CA 93257-9353

Cc: The Honorable Tom Tidwell, Chief
Randy Moore, Regional Forester

Dear Tina Terrell:

We are writing to express our concerns about the Draft Management Plan for the Giant Sequoia National Monument. This is a monument of national significance deserving of the highest protections from logging and climate change. We have concerns that several of the provisions proposed in the Draft Management Plan would not provide the necessary protections and urge you to enact a plan that will protect these national treasures for future generations.

As members of the House of Representatives, we represent hundreds of thousands of people across the country who treasure the Giant Sequoias as an iconic symbol of a uniquely American landscape. The Giant Sequoia are among the largest trees in the world and only 68 groves of these trees exist. In 2000, President Bill Clinton took action to protect 33 of these groves by creating the Giant Sequoia National Monument. We are pleased that the Forest Service has finally announced a Draft Management Plan for the Giant Sequoia National Monument however we have serious concerns that the plan does not provide this jewel of the national forest system the protections it deserves.

The proposed plan is incompatible with preserving the long-term health of the Giant Sequoia Monument's ecosystem. The ecosystem is already under threat from climate change and the most current version of the plan includes several management options, some of which could be devastating to the natural environment such as increasing logging beyond what was allowed in the forest prior to its designation as a National Monument.

We should not increase stress on this one-of-a-kind national treasure. The Giant Sequoia National Monument should be managed the same as the adjacent Sequoia National Park where logging of these iconic trees is prohibited. Anything less will not provide the standards needed to ensure the long term survival of the Giant Sequoia ecosystem.

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Again we urge you to enact a plan that will ensure the protection of these historic forests by prohibiting logging in the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

Sincerely,

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Sam Farr
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jay C Peterson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mike Quigley
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

[illegible]
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Raúl M. Grijalva
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Maxine K. Waters
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

[illegible]
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Bobby M. Scott
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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Michael M. Honda
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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