

Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) directs the Secretary of the Interior to review those areas of the public lands which the Secretary had, prior to November 1, 1975, formally identified as natural or primitive areas and report to the President his recommendations as to the suitability or nonsuitability of those areas for preservation as wilderness. The Secretary has recently completed his review of one such area, the Aravaipa Canyon Primitive Area, north of Tucson, Arizona.

It is with pleasure that I recommend approximately 6,670 acres for designation as the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness Area. The values of this outstanding natural area have long been recognized by the Bureau of Land Management, and approximately 4,044 acres of the proposed wilderness area were previously designated as the Aravaipa Canyon Primitive Area on January 6, 1969, and April 28, 1971.

Enclosed is the recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior, in which I concur. I believe Aravaipa Canyon is eminently qualified for designation as wilderness and I therefore recommend that the enclosed draft bill, designating approximately 6,670 acres as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, be submitted to the appropriate committee for consideration and that it be enacted.

Sincerely yours,

President

Enclosure