

Dear Senators--

- This bill is a bad idea because.....
- Parks have a different mission and are managed differently than state forests or wildlife management areas.
- Rather than a utilization or multiple-use mission, parks were created to protect the most significant natural and cultural heritage that West Virginia has to offer.
- Whether that be roaring waterfalls, soaring cliffs, or, yes, deep, dark, old-growth forests.
- Our state park system is the crown jewel of what makes us essentially, West Virginians.
- Parks reflect our most iconic landscapes and richest cultural stories.
- Parks are an essential part of the American experience, what Wallace Stegner calls, “America’s best idea.”
- West Virginia’s state park system is a legacy we as citizens and parks stewards are charged with passing on to our grandchildren and their grandchildren.
- Granted, our state parks face significant financial challenges.
- However, there are more effective ways to address this challenge than to allow commercial logging within their boundaries.
- Specifically, I believe park advocates and visitors would be willing to support a reasonable entrance fee if the income were dedicated to park maintenance and enhancement.
- Income from the resort parks could be distributed to the smaller parks according to some equitable formula.
- There could be a differential pricing structure for out-of-state vs in-state visitors and lower fees for under-represented populations.
- Final note—the last iteration of a state parks entrance fee proposal was premature. Ample time is needed to get input on this proposal and to build public support for it.

Respectfully,

Steve Selin

Sent from my iPhone

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