

**From:** George Cardinet [ghc3@inreach.com]

**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2009 12:02 PM

**To:** Tom and Lynette Ley Lynette Ley; Suzanne Hammerli-Smith Hammerli-Smith; William Barhite Barhite; William and Audrey Frederic Audrey Frederic; Sue Curran-Rice Curran-Rice; Verner and Nadine Laursen Nadine Laursen; William and Carolyn Harris Carolyn Harris; Tom and Marilyn Miller Marilyn Miller; William and Norma Gibbon Norma Gibbon; Thomas Sharman Sharman; Sue & Dave Mote Dave Mote; Wayne Shotts Shotts; Tony Palandrani Palandrani; Theodore Rankin Rankin; Tom and Elizabeth (Lovtang) Lee (Lovtang) Lee; Thomas and Joanne Bales Joanne Bales; Victoria Shankel Shankel; Tina and Mark Vanarsdale; Suzanne Van Ness Van Ness; Thomas and Amy Worth Amy Worth; V.P. and Joan LaCoste Harrison; Van Dyk, Jane Van Dyk; Zoe Laidlaw; Susan Marquis Marquis; William/Mark Kapla/Kono Kapla/Kono; Susie and Walter Kowalewski Walter Kowalewski; Will Classen Classen; Warren Sommers Sommers; Tim Fisher; willard classen jr; W. H. Frank Frank; Wm. or Harrie Pankey Harrie Pankey; Sue and Larry Depola Larry Depola; Tominson Trust Trust; Teri and Deci Dugan Deci Dugan

**Subject:** Moratorium passes House and Senate!!

**Good Morning Bay Area Cabin Owners:**

The following announcement was just received from Pete Bailey, NFH Director and C2 Legislative Contact Chair.

**Good News!** Cabin owners now have a fee increase moratorium that has been approved by the Senate and House Interior Appropriations conference committee. Because the Appropriations bill is now the vehicle for the Continuing Resolution to keep the government running until Dec.18, we expect it to be signed by the President and enacted into law very soon.

Because it is a bill provision, it becomes actual law and the Forest Service can not circumvent it. It limits any user fee increase in 2010 to no more than a 25% increase over 2009 fees. This language does not significantly impact many cabin owners, as most fees will increase by only the IPD-GDP anyhow. However, it does provide relief to cabin owners facing the phase-in of very high fees from appraisals completed in the 90's and those CUFFA appraisals being implemented in 2010. Also, although it is not a 100% moratorium, it is a significant achievement that now sets the stage for the replacement of CUFFA. Congress has demonstrated awareness of the issue and will want it to be addressed.

So, we now have some breathing room to implement a better solution. Everyone has had the opportunity to read and understand the User Fee / Transfer Fee Proposal. In fact, of those cabin folks completing the Sales Data and Appraisal Survey, **92.7% support replacing CUFFA with the Proposal**. The initial draft that formalizes the Proposal into legislation is nearing completion. Our next step is to find a bill sponsor. For the moment, the ball is in Aubrey King's court, as he shops for sponsors. That said, we will be needing support from the field as this process unfolds. So stay tuned in and please continue your lobbying support, as well as your activities generating needed financial support.

The official legislative language is as follows:

## CABIN USER FEES

**SEC. 433. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used by the Secretary of Agriculture to increase a recreation residence user fee for calendar year 2010 by more than 25 percent of the recreation residence user fee applicable to the recreation residence for calendar year 2009.**

Comment: I wish to emphasize the point made that the Moratorium is not 100%, and it will for the most part only have a major impact on those cabin owners that are: 1) facing the implementation of CUFFA fees in 2010, and 2) those with very high pre-CUFFA (1990's) appraisals that are now in the process of being phased-in. For many of us, the 2010 fees will be as scheduled with increases not greater than 25% of the 2009 fees.

Of greatest importance is the fact that approval of the Moratorium signals Congress' recognition of our problem and a willingness to further consider legislative resolution. **That's a big deal and the next order of business!**

You should have recently received a letter in the mail from our NFH President Geoffrey Anderson. In that letter Geoff outlines the activities undertaken to date and briefly outlines the road ahead that will hopefully lead to relief through the adoption of legislation to replace CUFFA. Geoff's letter also updates the NFH/C2 fundraising efforts and identifies the need for additional funding to support the legislative phase of our NFH/C2 effort. Please carefully read Geoff's call for support to participate in this campaign to the extent you can. Your continuing support of this effort will be indispensable in our efforts.

Thanks, and have a great weekend!

George

Cabin Coalition 2 Bay Districts Coordinator  
George H. Cardinet III  
P.O. Box 746  
Winters, CA 95694  
[ghc3@inreach.com](mailto:ghc3@inreach.com)