



Media Release
For Immediate Release
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Tri-City Regional Chamber Board of Directors votes to support Hastings Rattlesnake Mountain Legislation

TRI-CITIES, WA — Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has voted to support Congressman Doc Hastings' legislation to ensure public access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain. Board members approved the vote June 16th during the regularly scheduled monthly Board of Directors meeting.

Currently, access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain is prohibited by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which is an agency of the Department of Interior and manages the Hanford Reach National Monument, which was created by President Clinton on June 9, 2000.

Hastings' bill is titled "The Rattlesnake Mountain Public Access Act" and requires the Secretary of the Interior to provide public access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain in the Hanford Reach National Monument. The purpose of the Act is for educational, recreational, historical, scientific, cultural and other benefits. Under Hastings' bill, public access would include motor vehicles, pedestrians and other non-motorized transportation methods such as bicycles. The bill does not dictate how and when public access occurs, but does mandate that public access be permitted.

Hastings' bill also allows the Secretary to enter into agreements with State and local government, and other interested entities, for the purpose of facilitating public access, such as organizing and hosting tours. The bill also allows such cooperative agreements to maintain an access road to the summit.

For more information:
Contact: Jens Lee, Marketing and Membership Director
jens.lee@tricityregionalchamber.com
509.736.0510