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## Clean water support urged

Originally published: 2012-01-16 23:19:38  
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Dear Editor:

Thank you for your recent endorsement of the Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2011, (Jan. 1). This act is co-sponsored by Senator Alexander and endorsed by several other legislators from this region of the state.

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Mr. Alexander's leadership has been integral in developing this legislation which, should it become law, will designate as Wilderness almost 20,000 acres of the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee.

A Wilderness designation to this land is the highest form of protection for federal lands and prevents activities like logging, mining and the construction of most new roads and permanent structures. This will be the first land protected in this state since 1986.

The areas in our state covered by this act would continue to provide opportunities for fishing, hunting, camping, kayaking and hiking. Preserving these lands will ensure that wildlife has the habitat needed to sustain themselves and that Tennesseans have access to natural landscapes forever with irrefutable beneficial impacts for health and spirits.

The areas covered are currently managed by the U.S. Forest Service as wilderness and, as noted in the article would not require any further cost, close any roads, cost local towns any tax revenue and, I note, thus has little political risk.

I would encourage those local members of the House of Representatives who support this Wilderness Act to ask themselves why then can they not support the Clean Water Protection Act? In doing so they would ensure clean drinking water in Tennessee and throughout America. Could it be that it would require honesty with self and the courage to oppose the wishes of their corporate sponsors?




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