

## February 12, 2008: 100th Anniversary of Muir Woods National Monument

The Honorable Loretta Sanchez

### RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF MUIR WOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT

February 12, 2008

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 868, honoring the 100 year anniversary of the Muir Woods National Monument.

Throughout his life, John Muir was concerned with protecting nature to enhance the spiritual side of civilization and progress. His words and deeds led to the establishment of the U.S. National Park System. In addition, John Muir was the founding president of the Sierra Club, which remains one of the leading American grassroots organization for protecting wilderness and the human environment.

On January 9, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt declared the Muir Woods America's 10th National Monument. When he heard of President Roosevelt's act Muir wrote, "This is the best tree-lover's monument that could possibly be found in all the forests of the world."

Today, Muir Woods attracts about 1 million people every year, and inspires them with redwoods over 260 feet high and more than 1,200 years old. Part of the Golden Gate National Parks, Muir Woods is a living and enduring symbol of John Muir's conservation ethic that nature must be preserved if humanity is to continue to thrive on this planet.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and honor the legacy of a great American, his vision of environmental conservation, and the truly remarkable Muir Woods National Monument.

