

I voted Yes on H.R. 2157, to facilitate a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands in the Inyo National Forest.

The Inyo National Forest is located on the border between California and Nevada. H.R. 2157 would convey 20 acres of federal land within the Inyo National Forest in exchange for lands that are owned by the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area. Under the bill, a cap on cash payments would be waived in order for the government to accept an payment and complete the exchange.

This bill is necessary because a portion of the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area is located within National Forest boundaries. The ski area legally operates in the National Forest but is unable to do renovations or construction on the land. The ski area is attempting to obtain ownership of the land that is within the National Forest so it can make improvements, but has been unable to do so because but the federal government is currently prohibited from accepting certain cash payments. This legislation would address that technical roadblock and facilitate the exchange.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates the bill would not have a significant impact on the federal budget.

H.R. 2157 was approved by a vote of 376 – 2.