



Municipality of Skagway

GATEWAY TO THE KLONDIKE

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SENT VIA EMAIL

September 6, 2013

Congressman Doc Hastings
Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
United States House, Washington D.C.

Congressman Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee
United States House, Washington D.C.

Dear Chairman Hastings and Ranking Member DeFazio,

A phrase such as “money does not grow on trees” is quite often overused. However, in America’s national forests money and jobs do grow on trees. Unfortunately a failed Federal Forest management system has led to the loss of thousands of family wage jobs and has left rural forested counties and boroughs with a myriad of social and economic problems they do not deserve and that need to be addressed. For most of our counties and boroughs that can only be done by returning to a sustainable harvest level that will provide family wage jobs and allow for a solid tax base to support badly needed services.

From our perspective there are at least three reoccurring themes hindering sustainable forest management: first, funding to prepare sales; second, environmental analysis and review time for management activities; and third, litigation that stalls or totally stops much of the harvest that badly needs to be done.

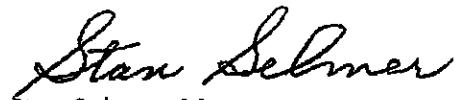
An increase in sustainable forest management is essential if we are to provide the healthy forests that were envisioned by President Theodore Roosevelt. The forest mortality we are facing now is destroying habitat for wildlife and creating a catastrophic situation for massive wildfires that destroy everything in their paths and leave millions of acres of forests susceptible to massive bug and insect infestation.

H.R 1526 addresses all of these issues. It provides a common-sense approach for returning to sustainable forest management through which the planned harvest can occur in a reasonable

amount of time. We do appreciate that the legislation allows for a temporary extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act. However, for long term social and financial health of rural forested communities we must have the family wage jobs that are provided by a healthy forest products industry.

We will fully support H.R. 1526 when it comes to the House floor and will contact our House members to speak in support and vote for the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stan Selmer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stan Selmer, Mayor
Municipality of Skagway