



KLICKITAT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



205 S. COLUMBUS AVENUE, ROOM 103, MS-CH-04, GOLDENDALE WASHINGTON 98620 • FAX 509 773-6779 • VOICE 509 773-4612

REX F. JOHNSTON, DISTRICT #1
DAVID M. SAUTER, DISTRICT #2
JIM SIZEMORE, DISTRICT #3

August 27, 2013

Congressman Doc Hastings
Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
United States House, Washington DC

Congressman Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee
United States House, Washington DC

Dear Congressman Hastings and DeFazio:

The failed Federal forest management system has led to the loss of thousands of family wage jobs and has left our rural forested counties with a myriad of social and economic problems that need to be addressed. Moreover, it has led to the loss of vast expanses of our national forests to insect infestations and catastrophic wildfires. It is imperative that we return to a sustainable harvest level that will lead to family wage jobs, a solid tax base to support badly needed services, and forest health.

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

L.R 1526 addresses all of these issues. It provides a common sense approach for returning to sustainable forest management where 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 certainly contact our House member to speak in support of and vote for the bill.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Klickitat County, Washington

Handwritten signature of David M. Sauter in blue ink.

David M. Sauter, Chairman

Handwritten signature of Rex F. Johnston in blue ink.

Rex F. Johnston, Commissioner

Handwritten signature of Jim Sizemore in blue ink.

Jim Sizemore, Commissioner

Cc: Congresswoman Jaime Herrera-Beutler