



## Lake County Board of Commissioners

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8-25-13

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

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

Unfortunately a 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 we do not deserve and need to be addressed. For most of our counties that can only be done by returning to a sustainable harvest level as part of multiple use management that absolutely will return our forests to a healthy condition and provide family wage jobs and allow for a solid tax base to support badly needed services.

An increase in sustainable forest management is essential if we are to ever provide the healthy forests that were envisioned by President Theodore Roosevelt. The Forest mortality we are facing now is creating a catastrophic situation for massive wildfire's that are destroying habitat for wildlife, seriously impacting water quality (domestic and fishery habitat), air quality of both the air we breathe and the impact on global warming through the massive amount of carbon being burned from these fires while destroying everything else in their path and leaving millions of acres of forests susceptible to massive bug and insect infestation. Please keep in mind that these are only a few of the major impacts we are facing.

H.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. With that said, we do believe there needs to be some discussion about making permanent base line funding for counties and schools. This can be discussed in depth at a later time as we do not want anything to slow passage of H.R. 1526 and believe there will be an opportunity to address this when conferencing occurs. 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.

The Lake County Board of Commissioners will fully support H.R. 1526 when it comes to the House floor and will certainly contact our House members to speak in support and vote for the bill.

Sincerely,



Ken Kestner



Dan Shoun



Bradley J. Winters