



Marion County
OREGON

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September 3, 2013

**BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

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Janet Carlson
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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

RE: Support H.R. 1526 – Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act

Dear Chairman Hastings and Ranking Member DeFazio:

Marion County urges legislative action this year on H.R. 1526, Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act. As time goes by, more mills are closing and businesses are losing the infrastructure needed to support the timber industry. In addition, O&C counties are in distress. We need to act now. Once the infrastructure is gone, it's going to be tough to bring the industry back.

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 that need to be addressed.

From our perspective there are three reoccurring themes hindering sustainable forest management; first is funding to prepare sales, second is the environmental analysis and review time for management activities, and third is litigation that stalls or stops the harvesting of trees.

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 destroying habitat for wildlife, creating a situation for massive wildfires and leaving forests susceptible to massive insect infestation.

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.

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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 members to speak in support and vote for the bill.

Sincerely,

The Marion County Board of Commissioners



Janet Carlson, Chair



Samuel A. Brentano, Vice Chair



Patricia Milne, Commissioner

cc: Congressman Kurt Schrader