



Samye Johnson
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August 29, 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

Sent via email to: Tyler.Hamman@mail.house.gov and Travis.joseph@mail.house.gov

Dear Congressmen Hastings and Defazio;

A failed Federal Forest management system has led to the loss of thousands of family wage jobs. This failure has subsequently left our rural forested counties with a myriad of social and economic problems that absolutely must be addressed. Economic relief from this unnecessary (*and unfortunate*) circumstance is only made possible through sustainable harvest levels that are sufficient to support critically needed jobs, which will in turn provide support to a damaged and vulnerable tax base.

From our perspective there are at least three reoccurring themes hindering sustainable forest management:

- 1) Inadequate funding to prepare timber sales
- 2) Environmental analysis and review time for management activities
- 3) Litigation that stalls or totally stops much of the timber harvest

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 catastrophic situation for massive wildfires that destroy everything in their path and leaving millions of acres of forests susceptible to massive bug and insect infestation.

H.R. 1526 addresses all of these issues by providing a common sense approach for returning to sustainable forest management where the planned harvest can occur - in a reasonable amount of time.

We appreciate the fact 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. I am sending a copy of this letter to our U.S. and Texas legislators and ask them all to support this bill. Further, we will be asking Congressman Louie Gohmert to vote in favor of this important legislation.

Respectfully,

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

Samye Johnson

cc: U.S. Congressman Louie Gohmert
U.S. Senator John Cornyn
Texas Senator Robert Nichols
Texas Congressman Trent Ashby