

Sanpete County Courthouse

160 North Main

Manti, Utah 84642



Assessor: Kenneth Bench
Attorney: Brody L. Keisel
Auditor: Ilene B. Roth
Clerk: Sandy Neill
Recorder: Reed D. Hatch
Sheriff: Brian Nielson
Treasurer: Earl D. Clark

Commissioners: Claudia Jarrett (Chair), Jon Cox, Steve Frischknecht

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

Dear Congressmen Hastings and Defazio:

A failed Federal Forest management system has led to the loss of thousands of family wage jobs. The reality of this failed management system is a myriad of social and economic problems our rural forested counties 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 that absolutely 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 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 wildfire's 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. 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 fully support H.R. 1526 and its subsequent positive impact to our county. We strongly encourage you to enlist support upon members of the House, and we will certainly contact our House members to speak in support of H.R. 1526 and vote for this bill.

Sincerely,


Claudia Jarrett
Sanpete County Commissioners


Steve Frischknecht


Jon Cox