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September 12, 2013

Honorable Congresswoman Suzan DelBene
318 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Congressman Rick Larsen
2113 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman DelBene and Congressman Larson,

A bill will soon be coming in front of you, H.R. 1526, the Restoring of Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act. The passage of this bill is extremely important to our counties as it addresses a multitude of unresolved issues associated with our federal forest lands. This bill would reestablish both the management of our forests and the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program that expired in 2012. The benefits from this are far reaching. **We are asking you to please support H.R. 1526 and all that it offers to our communities.**

We understand that managing our national forests results in healthy forests and reduces the risk of catastrophic wildfires and the rampant spread of disease, both of which are destroying our national gems. Fires are devastating: unnecessarily taking lives of our citizens, destroying property, blackening hundreds of thousands of acres, and releasing carbon into the atmosphere. We have been fortunate in Western Washington that we have not yet experienced this type of fire; however, it is only a matter of time, especially as our temperatures increase and the climate changes.

Properly managing forests creates jobs for families in our communities which have been negatively impacted by the expiration of the SRS Act that sent revenues to schools, roads, conservation projects, search and rescue and fire protection. Rural areas were already hit hard from closures in the national forest to protect endangered species. H.R. 1526, as amended, will allow for a short-term extension until active management in the national forest occurs.

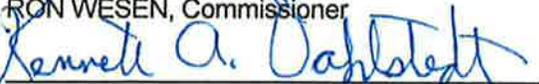
Please support this bipartisan effort which will provide social benefits that are environmentally and economically sound. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

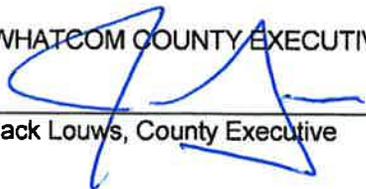
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