



## Stewart County Mayor's Office

Rick Joiner, County Mayor

P.O. Box 487

Dover, TN 37058

Phone: 931-232-3100 Fax: 931-232-3111

September 9, 2013

Congressman Doc Hastings, Chairman  
Natural Resources Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hastings:

A phrase such as "money does not grow on trees" is quite often overused. However, in America's national forests, money and jobs do grow on trees. 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 these problems and they need to be addressed. For most of our counties, this can only be done by returning to a sustainable harvest level which 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: (1) is of funding to prepare sales; (2) is the environmental analysis and review time for management activities; and (3) is litigation that stalls or totally stops much of the harvest which badly needs to be done.

An increase in sustainable forest management is essential if we are to ever provide the healthy forests which 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 which destroys everything in their path and leaving millions of acres of forests susceptible to massive bug and insect infestation.

HR 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 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 which are provided by a healthy forest products industry. We will fully support HR 1526 when it comes to the House floor and will certainly contact our House members to speak in support and vote for the bill.

Respectfully yours,

Rick Joiner  
Stewart County Mayor

RJ/mcs



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Congressman Peter DeFazio, Ranking Member  
Natural Resources Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member DeFazio:

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