

Tillamook County



Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

Board of Commissioners
Mark Labhart. Bill Baertlein. Tim Josi
201 Laurel Avenue
Tillamook, Oregon 97141
Phone 503-842-3403
Fax 503-842-1384
TTY Oregon Relay Service

August 28, 2013

Congressman Doc Hastings
Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
1203 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Congressman Peter Defazio
Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee
2134 Rayburn Office Building
Washington DC 20515

RE: Support H.R. 1526

Dear Chairman Hastings and Ranking Member DeFazio:

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 out rural forested counties with a myriad of social and economic problems we do not deserve and that 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 is funding to prepare sales, second is the environmental analysis and review time for management activities, and third is 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 envisioned by President Theodore Roosevelt. The forest mortality we are facing now is destroying habitat for wildlife, creating catastrophic 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. 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.

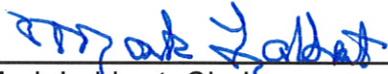
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However, for long term social and financial health of rural forested communities we must have the family wage jobs that are provided by a healthy forest products industry.

We know you are fully supporting H.R. 1526 and do appreciate your work and vote on this bill.

Sincerely,

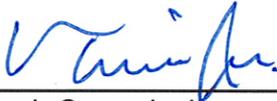
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR
TILLAMOOK COUNTY, OREGON



Mark Labhart, Chairperson



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Tim Josi, Commissioner