



## Washington State Legislature

September 6, 2013

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

Congressman Peter DeFazio, Ranking Member  
House Natural Resources Committee  
2134 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Hastings and Congressman DeFazio:

We are writing to express our support for H.R. 1526, Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act.

In America, 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. This same system has left rural forested counties with a myriad of social and economic problems we 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 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 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 leave 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 the 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 are hopeful it will pass the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis King". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping tail.

Senator Curtis King  
14<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Ross". The signature is cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping tail.

Representative Charles Ross  
14<sup>th</sup> Legislative District