

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Doc Hastings
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Hastings and Chairman Bishop:

Thank you for the opportunity to work with the Committee to craft a legislative solution to address management challenges associated with the historically and statutorily unique O&C Lands in western Oregon. We appreciate your acknowledgement of the special nature of these lands and the need for a unique solution.


As you know, today we publicly released a discussion draft of the "O&C Trust, Conservation, and Jobs Act." We respectfully request the Committee hold a public hearing on our bipartisan proposal as soon as possible.

Our proposal would create thousands of jobs in devastated rural communities, ensure rural counties in Oregon facing insolvency can provide basic government services, and encourage active management to restore forest health.

Again, thank you for your attention to the unique O&C Lands. We look forward to continuing to work with you and members of the Committee to move our legislative proposal forward.

Sincerely,


Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress


Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress