

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
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PUBLIC WORKS

July 31, 2013

Ms. Kim Parker
Executive Director
Workforce Investment Council of Clackamas County
365 Warner Milne Road, Suite 202
Oregon City, OR 97045-4073

Dear Kim,

Thank you for contacting me to share your thoughts on forest management in the state of Oregon. I appreciate hearing from you, and thank you for your thoughtful comments on this important matter.

I agree that Oregon is in need of a sustainable, comprehensive, long-term forest policy developed through a collaborative process. You may know that Representatives Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Kurt Schrader (D-OR), and Greg Walden (R-OR) have developed a legislative proposal to change management for over two million acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) forests in Oregon. I appreciate that my colleagues in the House of Representatives are moving the conversation forward on a difficult and complex issue.

Oregon has a proud history of producing forest products, and it is important that we keep Oregonians employed in this industry while being mindful of the health of forest ecosystems. For years, I have been working with Oregonians to explore ways to sustainably manage our forests, maintain forest health, and create more jobs in forest work. Please know that I will continue to work with my colleagues and other stakeholders on finding the best path forward for Oregon's timber communities.

Thank you, again, for sharing your thoughts with me. I hope you will keep sending your observations and thoughts my way.

All my best,



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

JM/jcb