



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

September 17, 2013

United States House
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Oppose H.R. 1526 – Promotes destructive logging that would decimate America's forests

Dear Representative:

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) works to turn environmental values into national priorities. Each year, LCV publishes the *National Environmental Scorecard*, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The *Scorecard* is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the media.

LCV urges you to vote NO on H.R. 1526, radical legislation that mandates and incentivizes destructive logging and other harmful industrial activities across vast swaths of America's public lands. This would destroy the benefits our forests provide like clean drinking water, recreational opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat. The legislation purports to address a shortfall in rural county funding, but the short-sighted and extreme approach it takes would decimate America's natural heritage without solving the problem.

H.R. 1526 requires the creation of "Forest Reserve Revenue Areas" on every national forest, in which 50% of each area must be logged each year. Priceless landscapes such as inventoried roadless areas, wilderness study areas, old growth, and other conservation lands would not be exempt, so these lands could be opened to logging. The Forest Service would have to spend untold sums—at a time of serious fiscal constraints—to comply with the requirement of logging at least 50% of the national forests each year. The legislation also turns over management of federal forest areas, such as part of the O&C lands in western Oregon, to state-appointed boards for the sole purpose of maximizing timber revenues and incentivizing other harmful industrial activities, without having to comply with federal environmental laws.

H.R. 1526 seeks to leverage concerns about forest fires to provide vast new authorities for logging and other development. Yet sufficient authorities to facilitate fire and insect treatments already exist, in the form of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA), which passed a Republican-controlled Congress in 2003 with the support of President George W. Bush. What's more, H.R. 1526 would incentivize logging in backcountry areas, which would divert scarce resources from the wildland-urban interface, which Congress intentionally prioritized in HFRA to protect forest-adjacent communities and watersheds containing municipal drinking water supplies.

We urge you to REJECT H.R. 1526. We will strongly consider including votes on this bill in the 2013 Scorecard. If you need more information, please call Tiernan Sittenfeld, Sara Chieffo or Alex Taurel in my office at (202) 785-8683.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski
President