



November 17, 2005

The Honorable Greg Walden  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brian Baird  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Walden and Congressman Baird:

On behalf of Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative (PNGC Power), I am writing with our strong endorsement of H.R. 4200, the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act. PNGC Power is a wholesale electric cooperative owned by 15 member/owner cooperatives with service territories in seven western states. Serving mostly rural areas of the Northwest, our members are acutely aware of the impact natural catastrophes have and the need for timely recovery and restoration of our forests.

Your bipartisan leadership in proposing this much-needed legislation is to be commended. The extensive gridlock created by current regulatory requirements hinders the ability of land managers to assist in recovery of stricken areas and avoid further degradation of these key natural resources.

The approach taken in H.R. 4200 is one where protection of the environment is preserved and balanced with responsible forest management practices following devastating occurrences such as the fires experienced in the Northwest in recent years. Land managers need the tools and resources necessary to complete a swift and thorough evaluation of forest conditions after these events to allow movement on plans to recover these areas. Your bill encourages public participation, follows a bipartisan (and congressionally approved) appeals and litigation process, and requires collaboration with states, local governments, tribes, colleges and universities, and other interested parties. This is a sound and prudent approach.

Thank you for your efforts to enact needed improvements to the response that follows a catastrophic event in our forests. The Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act is a necessary step towards bringing common sense back to this process. Please let us know if we can be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Scott Corwin'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott Corwin  
Vice President, Marketing and Public Affairs  
PNGC Power

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