

# HOOD RIVER COUNTY ADMINISTRATION



**DAVID MERIWETHER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

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## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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July 17, 2005

The Honorable Greg Walden  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1210 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2446 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Mt Hood Stewardship and Legacy Act of 2006 HR 5025

Dear Congressmen:

This letter is written to express our strong and unanimous support for the Mt. Hood Stewardship and Legacy Act of 2006, HR 5025. This critical and far-sighted legislation is the result of several years of steadfast efforts on your part which have included broad public outreach and scoping, numerous forums and hearings, and extensive consultation with stakeholders representing a wide range of priorities and interests. You are to be commended for your dedication to crafting this comprehensive bi-partisan proposal.

As local government elected officials in the affected area encompassed by this legislation, we acknowledge your commitment to address the concerns and issues of so many divergent viewpoints, and believe that this proposal represents a powerful, consensus building compromise that will effectively guide use and resource management policy decisions on Mt. Hood for years to come. HR5025 includes provisions dealing with a broad array of issues, including forest health, fire safety and stewardship, recreational uses, transportation systems, intergovernmental and tribal relationships and watershed protection.

Of particular importance to Hood River County are two land conveyances included in HR5025. The Cooper Spur / Government Camp Exchange effectively resolves a decades-old dispute regarding the future of the north side of Mt. Hood. Specifically, for the past two years, Hood River County has been engaged in mediated settlement efforts with other parties to resolve differences. Painstaking efforts among the parties, including members of the conservation community as well as the property owners, have resulted in the development of a property appraisal that fairly and comprehensively establishes appropriate values that will permit this exchange to occur to the benefit of all parties.

A Small County with a big mission:  
Providing Quality of Life for all.

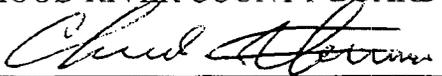
Further, Hood River County agrees to serve as the recipient of the improvements at Cooper Spur, should the Forest Service be unable to find a suitable concessionaire in due course. Title VIII, Subtitle B identifies an exchange in Cascade Locks that will secure property for the Forest Service along the Pacific Coast Trail, while providing property to the Port of Cascade Locks, within the Urban Growth Area, that will permit appropriate development to occur.

Additionally, we wish to voice our support for other specific provisions of HR5025; including protecting the rights of the Middle Fork Irrigation District, creation of the Mt. Hood National Forest Recreational Working Group, the dedication of funds for recreational purposes, the authorization for a Sustainable Biomass Utilization Study, and the establishment of the Crystal Springs Watershed Special Resources Management Unit.

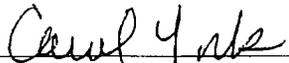
The Mt. Hood Stewardship and Legacy Act of 2006 is a remarkable piece of legislation that accomplishes many worthwhile goals, and was developed in a manner that serves as a model for bi-partisan inclusiveness. Thank you very much for your efforts in this regard, and for the opportunity to voice our unanimous support.

Sincerely,

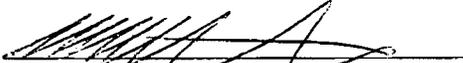
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Bob Benton, Commissioner



Les Perkins, Commissioner

cc: The Honorable Richard Pombo, Resource Committee Chairman  
The Honorable Nick Rahall, Resources Committee Ranking Minority Member