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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Resources
Washington, DC 20515

July 3, 2006

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The Honorable Greg Walden
1210 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Walden:

I appreciate your May 26th letter to me requesting the Mt. Hood Stewardship Legacy Act of 2006 (H.R. 5025) be scheduled as part of the next available full committee markup.

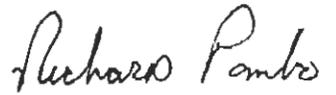
As I understand, over the past three years you have worked in a bipartisan fashion with Congressman Blumenauer and key stakeholder groups – including local government – to craft balanced wilderness legislation which is supported by a broad range of citizen and stakeholder groups in the Pacific Northwest. The local governments and communities responses to wilderness proposals are a fundamental concern of mine when considering wilderness legislation and I am pleased you have worked with them.

After conducting a legislative hearing on the Mount Hood Stewardship Legacy Act, the bill appears to be consistent with the Resources Committee's criteria for wilderness. Much of the land included in H.R. 5025 is already managed as wilderness or roadless by the Forest Service and it's supported by the Administration. You took into account the importance of access to recreationists, including motorized and non-motorized recreation, by keeping certain trails out of the wilderness designation.

Moreover, you have brought together members from the nearby communities of Mt. Hood, including environmentalists, recreationists, the timber industry, local politicians, and the public to agree upon a common-sense, compromise bill that addresses some serious forest health and hazardous fuels problems in the area. Finally, you have managed to do this in a bipartisan manner and have garnered the support of the Oregon congressional delegation.

Thank you for taking time to continually keep me posted on your work. I look forward to working with you to advance this legislation through the legislative process.

Sincerely,


RICHARD W. POMBO
Chairman