

Umatilla County

Board of County Commissioners



Commissioners

June 5, 2014

George L. Murdock
541-278-6202

W. Lawrence Givens
541-278-6203

William J. Elfering
541-278-6201

The Honorable Greg Walden
United States Congress
2352 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Executive Secretary
Melinda Slatt
541-278-6204

Dear Congressman Walden:

County Counsel
Douglas Olsen
541-278-6208

Please add Umatilla County to the growing list of counties who strongly support House Resolution 4272.

Budget Officer
Bob Heffner
541-278-6209

We agree with our colleagues in Wallowa County that the Travel Management Plan created considerable hostility in Northeast Oregon and that the tremendous overreach incumbent in the plan addresses problems which simply do not exist.

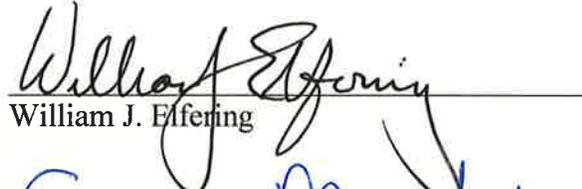
What is of even greater concern to us is the plan reflects yet another effort by the federal government to usurp the wisdom and authority of local government structures. Thank you for HB 4272 which would prevent such overreach and for your continued representation of rural counties and your awareness of our needs and interests.

In our estimation, the Travel Plan is simply another reflection of the disparity that exists across the country in terms of federal ownership. As you are well aware, issues such as this are minor in Eastern states where the percentage of federal property ownership is extremely low. In states like Oregon, where such a significant portion of our land mass is federally-owned, issues such as this are magnified many times over. We suspect Eastern members of congress would take a considerably different view in matters such as this if a significant portion of their state were to suddenly disappear from private ownership.

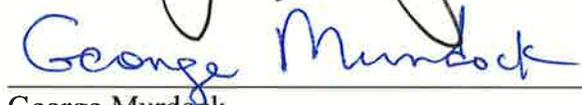
Honorable Greg Walden
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Page 2

Local government has always been the most effective avenue for addressing the unique needs of the particular region and we believe you clearly understand this principle. Thank you for HB 4272 and for your efforts on our behalf.

Umatilla County Board of Commissioners



William J. Effering



George Murdock



W. Lawrence Givens