



**Curry County
Board of Commissioners**

George Rhodes, *Chair*
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September 21, 2011

Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear House Natural Resource Committee:

The Curry County Board of Commissioners has had the opportunity to review the draft legislation put forth by your committee that calls for mandated management of Federal forest lands and creates a trust to provide a dependable source of revenue for counties and schools to address the expiration of Secure Rural Schools (SRS). The Board of Commissioners supports the key concepts underlying the National Forest County Revenue, Schools and Jobs Act of 2011 discussion draft of the bill. The discussion draft is an excellent first step in the process toward an acceptable long-term solution to the National forests management and the schools and counties funding conundrum. Curry County has a policy of advocating for solutions that apply to the National forests, and also the O&C Lands in Western Oregon. The two land bases are different, but the problems arising from lack of Federal management are very similar.

We are very pleased with and supportive of the work of the House Natural Resources Committee to date and look forward to the further development of the discussion draft into a final bill ready for moving through the legislative process. We urge the Committee and all interested members of Congress to proceed with deliberate speed to conclude work on development and adoption of a long-term solution. We look forward to learning of the outcomes from your scheduled September 22, 2011 hearing.

Sincerely,

George Rhodes, Chair

David Itzen, Vice Chair

Bill Waddle, Commissioner

cc: State Governor John Kitzhaber
State Senator Jeff Kruse
State Representative Wayne Krieger