

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 18, 2008

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
House Democratic Majority Leader
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Hoyer:

As the House begins working through the balance of the legislative agenda for the 110th Congress, we urge you to bring to the floor for consideration as soon as possible H.R. 3058, the Public Land Communities Transition Assistance Act of 2007. The Natural Resources Committee unanimously passed H.R. 3058 on September 26, 2007, and it was discharged from consideration by the Agriculture Committee on January 15, 2008.

As you have been made aware, timber-dependent communities throughout the Northwest will be devastated if the federal government does not maintain the century-old commitment to forested counties represented by this bill. H.R. 3058, if passed and signed into law, would reauthorize and extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and ensure that schools, roads, libraries, law enforcement, and search and rescue in rural America are not irreparably harmed by a dramatic loss of funding.

HR 3058 is fully paid for by utilizing Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lease fees. The House has voted in favor of using this offset four times in the past, most recently in July 2007 when the Natural Resource Committee's energy bill came to the House floor. However, if you believe that this pay-for is unacceptable, we would welcome the opportunity to work with you to identify mutually acceptable offsets for this worthy program.

We recognize that there are many pressing matters before the House. However, the importance of this program to the Northwest, and Oregon in particular, cannot be overstated.

We appreciate your continued attention to this issue, and please feel free to contact Susan Jane Brown on Congressman DeFazio's staff at 202-225-6164 and/or Colby Marshall on Congressman Walden's staff 541-624-2400 should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Best regards,


Greg Walden
Member of Congress


Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress