

EARL BLUMENAUER

THIRD DISTRICT, OREGON

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET



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February 1, 2018

Deborah Kafoury  
Multnomah County Chair  
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 600  
Portland, OR 97214

Dear Chair Kafoury,

I am writing in support of your decision to withdraw Multnomah County from membership in the Association of Oregon O&C Counties (AOCC). Given AOCC's recent, ill-advised actions attempting to block expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, a gem of biodiversity within our state, and AOCC's lack of consultation and communication with Multnomah County about those actions, I believe your decision is appropriate and warranted.

My constituents and I have strongly supported the establishment and expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, which protects some of Oregon's most treasured natural wonders and has benefited tourism and the outdoor economy in the state. The recent expansion of this monument came after broad stakeholder engagement and a robust public process, and was supported by local communities, local governments, tribes, business leaders, scientists, conservation interests, and others, as well as members of the state legislature and federal delegation.

In the current political climate, we must remain vigilant and strongly united in our defense of Oregon's special natural areas. Multnomah County's principled withdrawal from an organization working against these interests demonstrates that you are an eager and valuable partner in this fight. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Earl".

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress