



Lynn Peterson
Chair

Bill Kennemer
Commissioner

Martha Schrader
Commissioner

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING

2051 KAEN ROAD | OREGON CITY, OR 97045

The Honorable Tom Coburn
U.S. Senate, 172 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

March 25, 2008

Dear Senator Coburn,

We are writing in regard to your concerns over the Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness proposal currently pending in the U.S. Senate. Mount Hood is an Oregon icon, standing at 11,239 feet above sea level—the tallest point in the state. Clackamas County is the gateway to Mount Hood, and contains some of the most beautiful wilderness and forest-land in the country, providing opportunities for hiking, camping, fishing and biking, all within the shadow of this great mountain. Mount Hood's unparalleled natural resources also provide many timber, tourism and outdoor industry jobs in Clackamas County.

As you know, Senators Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith have been attempting to pass legislation that would protect Mount Hood, and we are concerned that your opposition has stalled protection of our state's icon. Protection of Mount Hood enjoys bipartisan support from all sides of the mountain and from the entire Oregon congressional delegation. The Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners and our citizens urge you to visit Mt. Hood for yourself to see why protecting the Wilderness is so important to us and to the entire nation.

Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River protections are the highest level of protection that America can give to our public lands. Protecting Wilderness reserves is critical in the fight against global warming. Scientists have found that the Northwest's forests are also giant carbon sinks, catching the pollution that causes the planet to warm. Protection also helps ensure that future generations inherit abundant fish and wildlife, including wild salmon and steelhead, and clean, pure streams that provide safe drinking water.

Reaching the point we are at today has taken several years, and many hours of work by both of our state's Senators and our House delegation. Senator Wyden's and Smith's offices have worked tirelessly with Clackamas County and many others to develop a Wilderness Bill that protects important and sensitive areas of Mount Hood, preserving them for generations to come.

Given that you have concerns regarding the protection of Mount Hood, we invite you to visit the great state of Oregon and take a tour of Mount Hood, to see the mountain in all its glory. We would be proud to escort you on a tour of the mountain and help you understand why Wilderness protection is so important to Clackamas County.

Sincerely,



Lynn Peterson
Commissioner



Martha Schrader
Commissioner



Bill Kennemer
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cc: The Honorable Ron Wyden
The Honorable Gordon Smith
The Honorable Harry Reid
The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
The Honorable Greg Walden

Enclosure: 2008 Travel Planner Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory