



Office of Mayor Tom Potter
City of Portland

July 13, 2006

Congressman Greg Walden
1210 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Walden:

I am pleased to write in support of HR 5025, the Mt. Hood Stewardship Legacy Act. This legislation provides a well balanced plan that sets the stage for the mountain's long term needs, including an expanding urban population, increasing numbers of recreational users, an imperative to protect water quality for Portland and other communities, maintaining a healthy forest and reducing the risks of wildfire, and preserving the treaty rights of Native Americans who look to the mountain for sustenance. I appreciate that the City of Portland has been an active participant in the numerous public summits and stakeholder meetings that you convened in the last three years as you developed the legislation.

The Mt. Hood National Forest is recognized throughout the world for its natural beauty, and the bounty of recreational and resource opportunities it affords. The mountain itself attracts 4 million visitors each year, and that number is increasing. HR 5025 is a critical step that will help us to plan for the next century of growth in or near Mt. Hood, while permanently protecting some of the forest's most special and wild places. I support this legislation and urge its passage through the House of Representatives and into law.

Sincerely,

Tom Potter
Mayor