



COLUMBIA HELICOPTERS, INC.

November 16, 2005

Representative Darlene Hooley
Representative Norm Dicks
Representative David Wu
Representative Peter DeFazio

Subject: The Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act (HR4200)

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Congresswoman Hooley, Congressman Dicks, Congressman Wu, Congressman DeFazio:

We are very encouraged to see that after years of several catastrophic fires of extremely large and unusually destructive force in the west, including in Washington, including the Biscuit and B & B complex fires in Oregon, as well as others, that the House of Representatives has taken up with bi-partisan support to allow us to develop an expedited, effective forest restoration program.

As you know, groups like the Sierra Club and other environmental groups, adamantly oppose any intelligent management of our forests. They seem to believe in the theory of naturalism with respect to forest practices. As an analogy, if this was our procedure in dealing with cancer victims or people with heart problems, our medical care system would be considered a disaster, the life expectancy of our people would be much lower and their physical condition much worse before they died.

The Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act (HR4200) bill sponsored by Representatives Greg Walden and Brian Baird is a great step forward for the health of our forests. Picture the Tillamook and Clatsop forests or the area of the Oxbow burn had we not moved out dead material and replanted those forests. They are beautiful, vibrant forests that house multitudes of varied wildlife and have very clean, excellent watersheds. If we left them in the mess we've left the Siskiyou National Forest from Biscuit Fire, the B & B Complex area and the Warner Creek area, to mention a few, we would have a desolate, fire prone, non-recovered forest for a very long period of time. That means an unhealthy situation that does not improve our air quality, that is very negative to water quality; so we have a negative impact on fish, wildlife, human, and our general environment as well as a very limited support structure for whatever wildlife exists in that particular area.

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 3500 Portland, Oregon 97208
TELEPHONE: (503) 678-1222

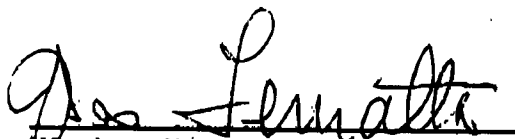
LOCATION: Aurora Airport Aurora, Oregon
Fax (503) 678-5841

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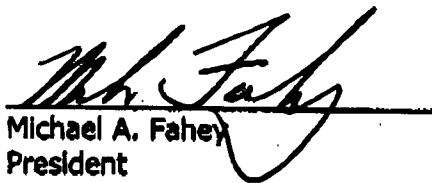
We encourage you to get aboard this very important bill to help us improve the health of our forests in the West. We can be sure that some House members on the East Coast who do not have government forests in their area may cave to tremendous pressure from the Sierra Club and other organizations that take extreme positions on "fire rehabilitation programs". We can also be sure that Democratic members from large cities and perhaps some Republicans, too, will possibly cave to those pressures or simply don't understand the importance and nature of the problem and the importance of this solution. Therefore, it's important that all of the Oregon and Washington House members support this excellent measure. We all know very well that this is a very strong bi-partisan measure that was developed with input from our Oregon Democratic house delegation, including it's Senior leader, and other thoughtful numbers knowledgeable in forestry issues; and therefore is a well thought out, balanced bill.

We urge you to sign up as sponsors of this bill. If you have concerns or questions or thoughts as to why you do not want to help restore our forest's health and therefore will not be involved in supporting this bill, we would like to be advised so that we can discuss this with you.

Sincerely,



Wes Lematta
Chairman of the Board



Michael A. Fahey
President

WL/MAF/plr

cc: Representative Greg Walden
Representative Brian Baird
AFRC
OFIC
Max Merlich