

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 10, 2009

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on the Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on the Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
131 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

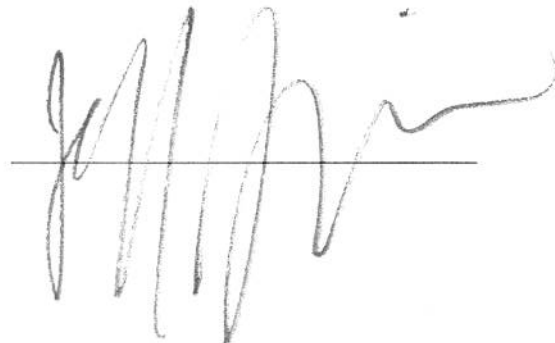
Dear Chairman Feinstein and Ranking Member Alexander:

The recently signed Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 includes a program that—if funded—will provide substantial benefits for our Nation's forests and the communities that depend on them. The Forest Landscape Restoration Act, title IV of Public Law 111-11, establishes a collaborative process that relies on the best-available science and strategies to plan and prioritize landscape-scale forest restoration projects.

The large-scale and long-term forest restoration projects carried out under the program will encourage the private investment and provide the economies-of-scale that will create jobs in the woods and in the existing and new businesses that will use the trees and other restoration byproducts to produce renewable energy and value-added products. Communities also will benefit from improved watershed function, fish and wildlife habitat, and general ecosystem health in the forests they enjoy and depend on, and from the reduced threat from and damage caused by severe wildfires. The taxpayers will benefit from reduced wildfire suppression and restoration treatment costs, and healthier, safer, and more productive public lands.

To make the large-scale, long-term restoration projects feasible, the Forest Landscape Restoration Act authorizes \$40 million per year to be appropriated into a national fund that will supplement local resources and leverage non-Federal support for carrying out the collaborative restoration projects. Community stakeholders from across the country are anxious to launch this program and to begin the important work that will restore forest landscapes, help to revive local economies, and reduce wildfire suppression costs and risks. We urge you to include in the fiscal year 2010 appropriations bill the funding that is necessary to make that possible. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden

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Joe E. Keith

Blanche L. Linsden

My Bances

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Wm F. B. A

Wm U. Doll

Tom Udell

Maria Carbone

Jeffrey A. Markley

Paul Begeh

Barb Bahr