

Center for Biological Diversity \* Conservation Northwest \* Defenders of Wildlife  
League of Conservation Voters \* National Audubon Society  
Partnership for the National Trails System \* Sierra Club  
Southern Environmental Law Center \* The Wilderness Society

September 19, 2013

OPPOSE H.R. 1526 and Amendments Listed Below

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters across the country, we ask that you oppose HR 1526, Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities. HR 1526 would roll back decades of environmental protections that safeguard our forests and drinking water, communities, critical wildlife habitat, and prized recreation areas for hunters, anglers, and climbers. Wildfire management and county payments are unquestionably some of the most important challenges we are facing when it comes to the future of our national forests, public lands, and local communities. But bills like HR 1526 are not the answer. They do more harm than good for our forests and forest communities. Amendments have been offered to HR 1526, our recommendations on several are noted below, and we continue to urge you to oppose HR 1526 on final passage.

OPPOSE Amt 1. Daines (MT) – Prevents citizens from obtaining legal injunctions to stop projects even if they violate planning and review rules.

OPPOSE Amt 3. McClintock (CA), McCarthy, Kevin (CA), LaMalfa (CA) – Allows the U.S. Forest Service to entirely evade judicial review for timber salvage projects done under the guise of responding to 2013 wildfires. This would prevent the public from ensuring project compliance with environmental and other laws.

OPPOSE Amt 5. McClintock (CA) – Interferes with the Forest Service's ability to remove unofficial roads and trails for public health and safety, ecological, or management reasons.

OPPOSE Amt 7. LaMalfa (CA) – Allows already limited U.S. Forest Service fire funds to be diverted to commercial salvage operations under the guise of post-fire recovery efforts, even if the salvage operations are not beneficial to recovery.

Thank you.