



Senator Jeff Merkley
131 NW Hawthorne Ave, Ste. 208
Bend, OR 97703 | 541-690-0279

RE: Letter of Support for the Post-Wildfire Environmental Assistance Act

Dear Senator Merkley:

The Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project (DCFP) writes to express our support and gratitude for your introduction of the Post-Wildfire Environmental Assistance Act. As you are well aware, our Deschutes County community is at an elevated risk of wildfire. Although we are working diligently to address this problem through forest restoration, it is likely that we won't be able to get all the work done before the next wildfire. We don't know which of our neighbors are going to need the help, but we would like to know that they will have help available.

The Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project (DCFP) is a nonprofit organization that convenes diverse stakeholder representatives ranging from environmentalists, to the forest products industry, to recreationists, to local government, and many others to work with the Forest Service and develop a shared vision for forest restoration in Central Oregon. As such, we are daily involved in the project of wildfire risk reduction and represent the voices of a very broad coalition of interests.

We hope that this common sense fix to our disaster recovery laws will pass quickly and help the nation respond gracefully to the growing wildfire challenge.

Sincerely,

Rod Bonaker
Chair, Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project