Subject: Thank you for opposing the Roadless Rule rollback — please continue fighting expanded logging in Oregon

Dear Senators Wyden and Merkley,

Thank you for your vocal opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Rule, for pushing for more public input on the BLM Western Oregon forest plan revisions & for cosponsoring S.2042, the Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2025. I appreciate your leadership in recognizing that decisions affecting Oregon's forests, watersheds, climate resilience, and rural communities must not be rushed through without meaningful public participation.

I am writing to urge you to continue your leadership by opposing the Northwest Forest Plan rollbacks, the BLM Western Oregon plan revisions, the repeal or weakening of the Roadless Rule, and H.R. 7603, the O&C Renewal Act of 2026.

Oregon's forests are not just timber inventory. They are an essential climate, water, wildlife, recreation, and quality-of-life asset. Oregon forests store approximately 3.2 billion metric tons of carbon across public and private forestlands. Once mature and old-growth forests are logged, their carbon-storage capacity and ecological complexity cannot be quickly restored. Regrowth to harvestable size may take decades, while old-growth characteristics can take centuries.

At a time when climate change is already increasing drought, wildfire risk, flooding, extreme storms, and heat, Oregon should be protecting its most valuable natural climate solutions — not accelerating their removal.

Expanded logging and associated road building also threaten Oregon communities directly. These activities can increase landslide& fire risk/intensity, increase sediment in streams, reduce streamside shading, harm fish habitat, reduce summer flows, increase herbicide use near watersheds, and degrade drinking water quality. In Lane County and throughout Western Oregon, these impacts can harm public health, recreation, fisheries, tourism, and local economies.

The economic case for expanded logging is short-sighted. Timber revenue may benefit some counties in the near term, but the costs of additional extraction — degraded watersheds, increased climate vulnerability, damaged recreation economies, habitat loss, road repair, disaster response, and public health impacts — are borne by the broader public. Modern mechanization and mill automation also mean that increased harvest will not deliver the broad job gains often promised.

Oregon needs a strong economy, but it should be diversified and sustainable. Public policy should support long-term stability through clean water, healthy forests, recreation,

restoration, sustainable industries, health care, education, technology, and local small businesses, not renewed dependence on expanded extraction from public lands.

We should also learn from other places. In the Brazilian Amazon, deforestation, logging, roads, fragmentation, and fire have weakened the forest's climate benefits. Once large forest systems are degraded, their carbon-storage and climate-regulating functions are difficult or impossible to quickly restore. Oregon should not repeat that mistake with its own globally significant forests.

I respectfully ask you to:

1. Continue publicly opposing the rollback of the Roadless Rule.
2. Continue championing S.2042, the Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2025.
3. Oppose H.R. 7603 and any legislation that makes timber production the overriding purpose of Western Oregon public forests.
4. Push federal agencies to hold public meetings in affected Oregon communities before moving forward with major forest plan revisions.
5. Demand full scientific review of impacts to carbon storage, drinking water, fish habitat, landslide risk, recreation, tribal interests, and local economies.
6. Fight for Oregon's mature and old-growth forests as irreplaceable public assets.

Thank you for standing up for Oregon's forests. Please continue using every tool available to protect these lands for present and future generations.

Sincerely,