

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 9, 2016

The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515


The Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

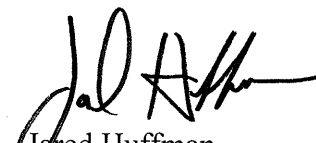
Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

We respectfully request the Committee's immediate consideration of a piece of legislation that is very important to our constituents, the **Southwestern Oregon Salmon and Watershed Protection Act, H.R. 682**. This legislation withdraws specified federal land in Curry and Josephine Counties in Oregon from harmful mining practices and designates 44.5 miles of the Chetco River as Wild and Scenic. This area is home to a unique ecosystem including plants found nowhere else on the planet and crystal clear wild rivers that team with native fish and provide clean drinking water for millions of Oregonians and Californians. It is an area of immense beauty and one that attracts people from all over the globe, providing a strong economic basis for the surrounding rural community. Protecting this area is the right thing to do for our economy and for our clean drinking water. H.R. 682 is supported by a broad local and regional constituency including several counties and local businesses.

If enacted, H.R. 682 would provide many positive benefits for the effected Federal lands and the nearby communities and stakeholders. I ask that H.R. 682 be considered at the next available Committee hearing.

Respectfully,


Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress


Jared Huffman
Member of Congress