



STOP TAXPAYER ROAD SUBSIDIES IN THE TONGASS

June 20, 2019

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we strongly urge you to support Representative Earl Blumenauer's (D-OR) amendment to the Department of Interior Appropriations Bill that would eliminate taxpayer subsidies given to the timber industry for logging the Tongass National Forest.

Our organizations have long been opposed to taxpayer subsidized roads in our national forests. The Tongass National Forest, in particular, represents what is wrong when the government constructs logging roads that assist timber companies in the cutting and removing of timber.

The failed economics of federal subsidies for the timber industry are magnified in the Tongass. On average, and if all roadbuilding and timber sale costs on the Tongass are taken into account, the Tongass timber sale program costs taxpayers \$25.5 million each year while yielding just \$1.29 million in return, for an average loss of \$24.2 million each year over the last 20 years—largely due to the exorbitant costs of building and maintaining new logging roads. Although elimination of this program itself will not solve our nation's enormous deficit, getting rid of special-interest subsidies like this is a good first step in the effort to restore fiscal sanity to Washington.

As you know, we support logging and timber extraction efforts when they are economically viable and not simply cronyism or corporate welfare.

Once again, we urge you to **support the Blumenauer Amendment (submitted #64) to the Department of Interior Appropriations bill**. It is time for the logging and timber companies to stop looking to the taxpayer for handouts to build and maintain roads for commercial logging.

Sincerely,

Ryan Alexander
President, Taxpayers for Common Sense

Pete Sepp
President, National Taxpayers Union

David Williams,
President, Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Tom Schatz
President, Council for Citizens Against Government Waste

Jonathan Bydlak
President, Coalition to Reduce Spending