



**Curry County
Board of Commissioners**

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April 4, 2018

RE: Chetco Bar Fire Call for Congressional Investigation

**The Honorable U.S. Senator Ron Wyden
The Honorable U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley**

Dear Senators;

Thank you both for the time you spent coming to Curry County during and after the Chetco Bar Fire was finally and officially declared “contained”.

As you know, the fire destroyed several homes, 16,000 acres of Private Timber Land and nearly 175,000 acres of some of the most beautiful, sacred, and wildest land in the Continental United States. Almost one fifth of our County land mass suffered with the severe burn category, with a total cost to the American Tax Payers of \$ 78 million. Thousands of birds and wildlife were incinerated. 80% of the Brookings-Harbor watershed was lost. Our citizens throughout Oregon suffered very hazardous smoke inhalation. We lost at least half of our Oregon Redwoods. An absolute minimum of burned timber salvage has been identified for harvest (7%). The greatest irony however is that the fire conditions now for 2018 are more serious than ever, and the list goes on and on.

We speak for many in Southern Oregon who believe this fire was not properly confronted nor battled from the very beginning. It has ultimately cost Oregon dearly and in many additional ways that are too early to calculate or even understand.

What our Curry County Board of Commissioners is seeking, is simply to get aid in determining the truth, and the factual history regarding this awful catastrophic fire.

We are asking for a full and immediate Congressional Investigation for all facts, and also retrieve any missing documents for the Chetco Bar Fire.

Thank you again.

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