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**The Honorable Martha Schrader**  
**Chair, Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners**

**Testimony before the Senate Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee on  
the Energy and Natural Resources Committee**

**May 3, 2007**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, I appreciate the invitation to come before you today to talk about S 647, the Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness Act of 2007.

Mount Hood is an Oregon icon. The thing most people see on their first trip to Oregon is that of Mount Hood while flying into the Portland Airport.

Clackamas County, the County I am fortunate enough to represent as Chair of the Board of County Commissioners, is the gateway to Mount Hood, and contains some of the most beautiful wilderness and forest-land in the country, providing ample opportunities for hiking, camping, fishing and biking, all within the shadow of this great mountain. Federal forestlands on Mount Hood contain the watersheds that provide drinking water for many communities in Clackamas County and Beyond. Mount Hood also provides plenty of natural resources, creating timber jobs through responsible forest management. Mount Hood is extremely important to Clackamas County, and I am pleased that the U.S. Senate is taking steps today to protect this treasure for future generations.

Reaching the point we are at today has taken several years, and many hours of work by both of our state's Senators and our House delegation. Senator Wyden first introduced his legislation on Mt. Hood in 2004, and several other iterations of this bill have been introduced, debated, changed, and perfected. I'm pleased that our delegation has been able to work so well together to get us to this point, and look forward to passage of S 647.

The bill I am here to talk about today, the Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness Act, contains 128,000 acres of new wilderness, 79,000 of which is located within the boundaries of Clackamas County. 47 miles of new Wild and Scenic River are within the boundaries of Clackamas County.

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Determining exactly which acres merit wilderness designation has been part of the process I mentioned earlier, and Senator Wyden's and Smith's offices have worked with me and others in my County tirelessly to make these decisions. At the beginning of the process the County put forward a list of principles through which we examined the bill. Based on these principles we made a number of suggestions which we believed would improve the bill, and many of these improvements were made.

For example, the County wanted to insure that local governments would have a voice in the transportation planning process on Mt. Hood, and changes were made to accommodate this request. The County specifically requested that a number of Forest Service roads be excluded from the wilderness portion of the bill, and most of these roads were left out of S 647.

The County requested that the Hunchback Mountain land exchange be included in the legislation. This exchange, which will preserve an important view shed, and has the support of local community organizations including the Mt. Hood Area Chamber of Commerce and the Hoodland Community Planning Organization, has been included.

The legislation before you today is a good bill, and I hope to see it passed. It protects important and sensitive areas of Mount Hood, preserving them for generations to come, and it includes measures to promote economic development in villages and communities where development should happen in a well-planned and organized fashion. I am looking forward to working with all of you to improve the bill even more going forward.

Oregon is a growing state, and Mount Hood is so precious and so important to so many Oregonians because of how close it is to so much of our state's population. Promoting managed, planned growth in certain areas is essential to allowing Oregonians to continue to enjoy the beauty and the majesty that is Mount Hood.

Again, I want to thank Senator Wyden for inviting me to testify before you today, and I hope that you will pass Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness Act.