

From: Representative Greg Walden Representative.Greg.Walden@mail.house.gov 
Subject: Greg Walden Continues Series of Town Halls Across Oregon's Second District
Date: February 18, 2019 at 1:59 P



News from Representative Walden

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Good morning,

I start today in Boardman with my 10th town hall of the year. Now that the government is fully funded for the year, hopefully the schedule will settle down and we can move forward with the next 10 town halls in the weeks ahead! We will announce them as soon as the details are worked out.

Meanwhile, here's a recap of a wide range of issues and meetings over the last two weeks.

Greg Walden Holds Town Hall Meeting in North Lake County



My 157th town hall meeting took me to North Lake County, where I held my ninth town hall of the year. One of the main topics was improving forest management to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. I led the effort in the last Congress to pass into law the most significant reforms to forest management in more than a decade, which includes fixing federal policy to finally treat wildfires like the natural disasters that they are.

During the town hall, I heard concerns that the federal government is not doing enough to bring our forests back into their natural balance. At a hearing I held last Congress, I heard similar concerns from a forest scientist [who told me that forest landscapes in eastern Oregon that would have historically held 20 trees to an acre are now at more than 1,000 trees per acre in some cases.](#)

We need to move forward with active forest management to help reduce the fuel loads that build up and create a tinder box just waiting to ignite in our forests. That includes getting in after a fire and cleaning out the dead timber, so we can replant a new, healthy forest for the next generation. We do this on private land, on state land, and it is past time that we make this a practice on federal forests as well. I'm continuing to work in Congress to get that done.

Thank you to everyone who joined my town hall meeting in North Lake County. I look forward to continuing my series of town hall meetings and will announce further details on my upcoming town halls soon. For a complete list of town hall meetings I have held this year, as well as details on upcoming town halls near you, please [click here.](#)



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U.S. Rep. Greg Walden Town Hall Meeting 2-9-19

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden came to North Lake High School on Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019. Walden addressed citizen concerns such as border security, forest management and more. He also addressed his accomplishments and what he hopes to accomplish coming up.

[Click here](#) to learn more from the Lake County Examiner.

Greg Walden Calls for Innovation, Conservation, and Adaptation to Address Climate Change



During a recent hearing on solutions to address climate change, I used a jar of ash to illustrate the impact of catastrophic fires on Oregon's forests, airsheds, and communities. [Click here](#) or on the image above to view my remarks during this hearing.

As Congress continues to discuss solutions to address climate change, I'm focused on efforts that prioritize innovation, adaptation, and conservation. During a hearing at the Energy and Commerce Committee recently, I called for commonsense, solutions-based proposals to take on this challenge.

Just as America led the world in energy development that has reduced carbon emissions, we want American innovators to develop the next technologies that will improve the environment and create jobs right here at home.

[In the last Congress, I helped pass into law legislation to boost renewable energy solutions like hydropower.](#) Hydropower has great success as a renewable energy source in our district and generates approximately 40 percent of the electricity in our state. Legislation we passed into law last Congress will streamline the permitting process for things like closed-loop hydropower projects. One such project that is in the permitting process in our district aims to generate enough power for 600,000 homes in southern Oregon.

Any conversation about climate change must also include the need to improve forest management. We need to take concrete action to mitigate the risk of wildfires that devastate Oregon every summer and pollute the atmosphere with carbon dioxide and other particulate matter.

Managing our forests not only reduces the risk of these catastrophic fires, but also the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says that sustainably managing our forests will create the longest sustained carbon mitigation benefit.](#) I've held hearings each of the last two years to [examine the health and environmental impact of wildfire smoke](#), and will continue to push for commonsense solutions to improve forest management as the debate over climate change solutions continues.

[Click here](#) to read my full remarks during the hearing.



Congressman Walden addresses forest management

Congressman Walden addresses forest management action during climate change hearing

The first climate change hearings of the 116th congress got underway Wednesday. Oregon Congressman Greg Walden spoke at the hearing and referenced the need to minimize massive wildfires in the west.

At the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which he chaired just last year, Congressman Walden highlighted Oregon's own struggles with wildfires as an example of the need to combat climate change.

[Click here](#) to read more from KOBI Medford.

Greg Walden Says Hearing is Needed to Examine Government-run Health Care Proposal



[Click here](#) or on the image above to view my remarks on "Medicare for All" at a recent Energy and Commerce Committee hearing.

[During a recent hearing at the Energy and Commerce Committee, I called for a hearing to examine the impact of a government-run health care system](#) that is being proposed by some lawmakers in Congress. Both liberal and conservative think tanks have stated that a [Medicare for All proposal could cost taxpayers as much as \\$32 trillion over ten years](#). It would end Medicare as we know it, and require hospitals and doctors to take a 40% cut in what they get paid. Can you imagine the delays in getting access to quality care if that happens?

And some [Democratic lawmakers have acknowledged that the proposal would end employer and union sponsored health insurance for more than 158 million Americans](#). We need a hearing to give Americans a full picture of what such a proposal would mean for their health care and family budgets.

In the meantime, I'm continuing to focus on solutions to tackle out-of-control health care costs. That is what the American people want Congress to focus on. In the last Congress, I led the effort to pass into law measures that aim to lower drug costs for patients. We modernized the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to streamline the approval process for generic alternatives that give consumers cheaper options when purchasing prescription medications. The FDA went on to approve more generic medicines than in any prior one-year period. [We banned the use of "gag-clauses," which limited the pricing information pharmacists could provide their patients](#). We also opened the hearing aid market to competition and permanently eliminated the arbitrary limit on therapy treatments doctors prescribe under Medicare.

I will seek opportunities to reach across the aisle in Congress to address the out-of-pocket health care costs and deductibles that are putting family budgets in peril in Oregon and throughout the country.



CENTRAL OREGON'S NEWS LEADER

Walden blasts Medicare for All as \$32 trillion boondoggle

Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., raised concerns about a \$32 trillion government-run health care system during a hearing

Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore. raised concerns about a \$32 trillion government-run health care system during a hearing Wednesday before the House Energy and Commerce Committee.... "We know that this plan would take away private health insurance from more than 150 million Americans, end Medicare as we know it and rack up more than \$32 trillion in costs, not to mention delays in accessing health services," Walden said Wednesday.

[Click here](#) to read more from News Channel 21.

Greg Walden Invites Eastern Oregon Broadband Provider to Testify at Net Neutrality Hearing



Listening to testimony from Joe Franell (seated center at witness table), CEO of Eastern Oregon Telecom, during a hearing at the Energy and Commerce Committee. [Click here](#) to view my remarks during the hearing.

I'm continuing my efforts to protect consumers, boost innovation, and maintain an open internet. That's why I called on Congress to pass a permanent legislative solution to net neutrality, and [introduced legislation to do just that](#).

During a hearing at the Energy and Commerce Committee recently, I highlighted that my bill secures permanent, bipartisan net neutrality solutions into law, including prohibitions on blocking, throttling, and paid prioritization for internet traffic. My bill also requires that internet service providers be transparent in their network management practices and prices. These are longstanding agreements on net neutrality that lawmakers on both sides of the aisle support.

I invited Joe Franell, Chief Executive Officer of Eastern Oregon Telecom based in Hermiston, to testify during the hearing. For me, the debate over net neutrality is very much about the impact on providers like Joe who are trying to close the digital divide in eastern Oregon. Heavy-handed, one-size-fits-all regulations hurt small internet service providers like Eastern Oregon Telecom the most, and this in turn hurts their ability to expand broadband to underserved communities in rural America.

[Joe testified that addressing net neutrality through legislation rather than regulatory action is the best path forward](#), which is something my bill aims to accomplish. Joe said that every dollar he spends reporting to regulatory agencies is a dollar that is not available to invest in new infrastructure to serve rural Oregon.

I am committed to reducing the regulatory burdens that prevent rural broadband providers from expanding this critical service to the approximately 23 million Americans that lack adequate internet access, many of whom live in our district. A permanent, bipartisan legislative solution to net neutrality is the only way to do this while protecting consumers, innovation, and an open internet.

[Click here](#) to read my full remarks during the hearing.

EAST OREGONIAN

Hermiston's Joseph Franell testifies before Congress

Eastern Oregon Telecom President Joseph Franell jumped into the fray of Congress' net neutrality debate Thursday.

Franell traveled from Hermiston to Washington, D.C., to testify in front of lawmakers from the House's Energy and Commerce Committee by invitation of Rep. Greg Walden, the committee's top-ranking Republican. Walden has introduced legislation that would prohibit internet service providers from practices, such as blocking or throttling traffic to lawful websites and requiring sites to pay for prioritization.

[Click here](#) to read more from the East Oregonian.

Ways Greg Walden Can Help -- Help with a Federal Agency

Last month, a Umatilla County woman whom I helped obtain a 10-year Permanent Resident Card became a citizen of the United States. This woman reached out to my office after she was having trouble with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). My office got in touch with USCIS on her behalf to help with her case, and it is great to hear that she received her citizenship in January.

If you need help with USCIS, or any other federal agency, please reach out to my office at 800-533-3303. I've assisted more than 21,800 Oregonians with problems they were having with federal agencies, and my office will do everything in our power to get results for you.

That's all for this update. Remember, you can always keep in touch with me via [email](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

It is an honor to represent you in the U.S. Congress.

Best regards,

Greg Walden
U.S. Representative
Oregon's Second District

Please feel free to sign up for my [E-Newsletter](#), like me on [Facebook](#), and follow me on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) if you have not already done so.

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