

From: Representative Greg Walden Representative.Greg.Walden@mail.house.gov
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News from Representative Walden

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"I absolutely hate that nothing is being done to prevent this from happening"

That's what Jennifer, a mother from Medford, wrote to me when she described how air-choking smoke has held her family hostage in their own home once again this summer. According to EPA research, premature deaths tied to wildfire air pollution were as high as 2,500 per year between 2008 and 2012. Other research, out of Colorado State University, suggests it could be as high as 25,000 people per year. That is unacceptable, and that is why I held a hearing last week to examine how we can prevent these unnaturally catastrophic wildfire seasons through better management of our forests.



A car cabin air filter clogged with particulate matter from smoke illustrates how this year's fire season has impacted everyday life in Oregon. [Click here](#) to view my opening remarks at an Energy and Commerce hearing to examine the health impacts of wildfire smoke.

I invited Oregon State Senator Herman Baertschiger from Grants Pass to testify during the hearing. Senator Baertschiger serves as the chair of the bipartisan fire caucus in the Oregon State Legislature and has over 40 years of firsthand experience in wildland fire and forest management activities. In his testimony, Senator Baertschiger said that it is critical to replant after a wildfire so the forest can naturally regenerate and the ecosystem is not completely destroyed by subsequent fires.

[That's why I worked to include provisions in the House passed Farm Bill](#) that would require the Forest Service to remove the burned, dead trees after a fire while they still have value and replant to restore the forest for the next generation. It's simple: young, healthy forests sequester carbon while dead and dying trees emit carbon and provide fuels for the next fire.

The Farm Bill is currently being negotiated by members of the House and Senate, and it's critical that these needed changes get to the President's desk for the health of our communities and our forests.

Studies show that when we manage the fire fuels that build up in our forests, we can actually reduce the size and intensity of wildfires by up to 70 percent and reduce the carbon emissions from wildfires by up to 85 percent. When the health of our families is threatened by air-choking smoke, why wouldn't we take every measure possible to reduce the risk of these catastrophic fires in the first place?



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That's why I'm continuing to push to bring active management back to our forests, and you can learn more about our recent hearing [here](#).

Grants Pass Oregon's **Daily Courier** thedailycourier.com

Walden deploys dirty air filters to emphasize smoke's harmful effects

Oregon Rep. Greg Walden used some interesting props to showcase the severity of smoke from wildfires in Southern Oregon during a hearing by his House committee on Thursday.

He held up an air filter from a C-PAP machine, which he said was dropped off by an Eagle Point resident, that had been fouled in two days by smoke. The machines help sufferers of sleep apnea breathe at night.

[Click here](#) to read more from the Grants Pass Daily Courier.

Walden Secures Drought Relief Measures for Klamath Farmers in House Passed Water Package



I worked to include language in legislation that passed the House last week to secure relief for farmers in the Klamath Basin. [Click here](#) to view my speech in support of the America's Water Infrastructure Act.

Irrigators in the Klamath Basin are enduring another challenging water year and we need to be prepared if our farmers are hit again with severe drought conditions in the years ahead. That's why I worked to include language in [legislation the House passed last week](#) to authorize \$10 million annually for four years to support drought relief activities in the Klamath Basin.

Earlier this year, I helped provide resources in the government funding measure to help Klamath Basin farmers. Now the Bureau of Reclamation needs the authority to use those funds to implement groundwater pumping and other measures our irrigators have told me that they need.

The bill we passed in the House last week -- [the America's Water Infrastructure Act](#) -- ensures Reclamation has that authority for the next four years to help farmers, ranchers, and water users navigate the current water year and survive the difficult water years we may face in the near future.

Importantly, this legislation also included provisions to help promote the development of renewable hydropower and ensure communities in Oregon are able to upgrade their drinking water infrastructure, so our citizens have safe water when they turn on the faucet. Boosting hydropower development and modernizing our drinking water infrastructure have been priorities for me in Congress, which is why I helped make sure these measures were included in the larger legislative package.

To read more about the America's Water Infrastructure Act, please [click here](#).



KLAMATH FALLS NEWS

House Passes Water Infrastructure Package That Includes Drought Relief For Klamath Farmers

The House of Representatives today unanimously passed legislation that secures drought relief measures for Klamath Basin irrigators. Representative Greg Walden (R-Hood River) included a provision in the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (S. 3021) that authorizes \$10 million annually for four years to the Bureau of Reclamation to implement needed drought relief measures for the agriculture community in the Klamath Basin.

[Click here](#) to read more from Klamath Falls News.

Walden Meets with Helicopter Crew Battling Wildfires Across Oregon



Stepping into one of Croman Corps' heavy lift helicopters at their facility in White City. The Croman Corps fleet has been instrumental in battling wildfires across Oregon.

More than 700,000 acres have already burned in Oregon this year from catastrophic wildfires that have devastated our state once again. Battling these fires requires an all-hands-on-deck effort, both on the ground and in the air. Recently, I met with the hardworking team at Croman Corporation (Croman Corps), a heavy lift helicopter service in White City that is battling this year's wildfires from the skies.

Croman Corps' fleet of heavy lift helicopters are helping with fire suppression efforts across Oregon through contracts with the Forest Service. Their versatile fleet can assist in both urban and rural disaster environments and has even helped recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

Thank you to the Croman Corps team for inviting me to tour your impressive operation in White City, and for your work to protect people and property across Oregon during this wildfire season.

Walden Attends Drill Weekend at Kingsley Field





Thanks to Colonel Smith, Major General Stencel, and the entire team at Kingsley Field for inviting me to the kick-off of drill weekend in Klamath Falls.

Kingsley Field Air National Guard Base in Klamath Falls plays a key role in America's military readiness and in training the men and women who serve our country in uniform. It is always a pleasure to meet with the dedicated team at Kingsley and tour the base, and I was honored to be invited to participate in the kick-off of Drill Weekend earlier this month.





An awe-inspiring F-15 fighter jet lifts off the runway at Kingsley Field Air National Guard Base to signal the start of Drill Weekend.

The mission at Kingsley is as important for the country as it is for the Klamath Basin. This is the only place in America where pilots are trained in the F-15, which is why it is critical that these aircrafts are fully operational. It is also critical that Kingsley is well-equipped to carry out its current mission and any future missions, such as training pilots to fly a newer generation of fighter jet: the F-35. I will continue working to bolster the community's strong support for the active duty Air Force and National Guardsmen at Kingsley Field, to ensure they are a part of the Basin's economy for generations to come.

Thank you to Colonel Smith, Major General Stencil of the Oregon Military Department, and the entire team at Kingsley Field for inviting me back to the base. And thank you to all of the troops stationed at Kingsley for your service to our country.



Walden at Kingsley

Congressman Greg Walden met with officials at Kingsley Field Saturday morning, in a visit that could help to lay the foundation for the next mission at the base.

The F-15 fighter jets tend to make a big impression wherever they fly.

"This is really an important mission for the country." Notes Congressman Greg Walden. "It's extraordinarily important for the basin. This is where we train our F-15 pilots for America, and we want to make sure that the aircraft is up to snuff."

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

Prineville Native and Air Force Academy Graduate Heading to Serve our Country at England Air Base



At Drill Weekend, I caught up with Lieutenant Lucas Smith, a Prineville native and graduate of the United States Air Force Academy. I was proud to nominate Lucas to the Air Force Academy in 2012, and am excited to hear that he is heading to serve our country at Lakenheath Air Base in England to fly with the World's Greatest Air Superiority Fighter unit.

Each year, I have the honor of nominating outstanding Oregon students like Lucas to the prestigious service academies. The deadline this year for sending in an application for a nomination to the academies is October 26, and I encourage interested students to do so via my website at:

<https://walden.house.gov/academynominations>

Lucas, I wish you all the best as you head to England and thank you for your service to our country.

Walden Votes to Send Landmark VA Funding Package to President's Desk



Oregon veterans, like those I am honored to meet with regularly, deserve the best care from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). That's why I voted for unprecedented resources for the VA so they have the tools they need to give our veterans the care they have earned.

Under this bipartisan legislation, Congress approved the largest dollar amount ever for the VA to get better care for our veterans. The VA will receive the funding necessary to implement the [VA Mission Act](#), which included my legislation to help improve care for veterans all across Oregon and America by freeing up doctors to do what they do best: take care of patients.

This funding package also included key resources to boost base funding for our military by \$17 billion, which will help make sure our troops have the tools they need to safely carry out their missions around the world. To learn more about this funding package, please [click here](#).

Southern Oregon Veterans Meet Greg Walden in Washington, D.C.



Al Axtell (seated), a 100 year-old WWII veteran from Medford, came to Washington, D.C. last week as part of Honor Flight of Oregon. Thank you to Al, and all veterans across Oregon and America, for your service to our country.

It was an honor to welcome 25 veterans from southern Oregon to Washington, D.C. last week as part of Honor

It was an honor to welcome 20 veterans from southern Oregon to Washington, D.C. last week as part of Honor Flight of Oregon. These veterans made the long trip to our nation's capital to visit and reflect upon the memorials established in their honor.

We can never repay the debt of gratitude owed to the men and women who have worn our nation's uniform. As a small token, I was proud to present each veteran with an American flag flown over the Capitol and enter each of their names into the Congressional Record in recognition of their service.

Thank you to the entire Honor Flight of Oregon team for making this trip so special. Thank you most of all to the WWII and Korean War veterans who traveled to the nation's capital on Friday for your service to our country.



Rep. Walden Welcomes Vets to D.C.

[Click here](#) to watch coverage of the Honor Flight from News Watch 12 in Medford.

Over the past year, I've helped more than 600 Oregon veterans and their families with health care, benefits, and claims at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). If you or a loved one needs help with the VA or any other federal agency, you can reach out to my office from Oregon at 800-533-3303. I will do everything I can 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

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Washington, DC Office
2185 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-6730

Bend Office
1051 NW Bond St. #400
Bend, OR 97701
Phone: (541) 389-4408

La Grande Office
1211 Washington Avenue
La Grande, OR 97850
Phone: (541) 624-2400

Medford Office
14 N. Central Ave. #112
Medford, OR 97501
Phone: (541) 776-4646

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