

# Suggested Town Hall Talking Points

## **Open by thanking the Senator/Congressman:**

*Thank you* for your support of the Omnibus Public Lands bill to protect places like the Devil's Staircase Wilderness, Chetco River, and Molalla River.

## Talking Points and Questions:

### **Protect Wilderness and Recreation Areas**

- After 10 years of effort on your part, will you work to ensure the Wild Rogue Wilderness is protected this year?
- The Wild Rogue is home to world class rafting and hiking as well as key salmon runs and other wildlife habitat.
- Our forests store vast amounts of carbon for centuries. Will you work to protect our forests as a tool to help curb climate change?
- Will you support protections for our natural treasures like Crater Lake and the Ochoco Mountains?
- Only 4% of Oregon is designated as Wilderness, putting us behind all neighboring states. How will you work to find a better balance that protects our natural treasures?
- Wilderness and public lands support the outdoor recreation economy in Oregon. According to the Outdoor Industry Assoc, that generates 172,000 jobs.

### **Stand up to Trump**

- The Trump administration is waging a war on science-based environmental policies.
- What will you do to stop Trump and his cabinet as they try to weaken or eliminate bedrock environmental regulations that safeguard our air, water, and climate?

# Town Halls - General Info

## ***Format:***

Town halls typically follow a consistent format. Get there early to get a good seat. If you want to ask a question/comment you likely have to sign up upon arrival. Likely you will be given a raffle ticket and staffers will pull numbers from a hat to determine who gets to speak. There is no guarantee your number will get called, which is why it's important to make a statement in other ways: sign holding outside, talking to staffers afterwards. Sit in the front row and hold your sign in your lap so the Senator/Congressman sees it the whole time.

## ***Tips on How To comment:***

We understand that people can get really nervous, but your comments don't have to be eloquent. Comments can and should be ***short and to the point***. In order to be most effective, bring in ***personal connections*** you might have to your issue (fav camping area, water quality, recreation, wildlife, climate change threats to grandchildren, etc). Also, try to stay focused on topics that the senator can influence such as, Oregon needs more Wilderness designations and keeping public lands public are good topics.

***Be redundant to the point of polite annoyance.*** People sometimes hear someone reference the issue you were planning on talking about, and you feel like the topic has been covered so you either don't say anything or ask a question about a different topic. It is important to remember that the more the senator hears about a specific issue, the more she/he will focus on it.

***Ask for their stance on an issue and what specifically they will do to address the problem.*** If they deliberately dodge your question, don't be shy to follow up and tactfully demand a clearer response. Remember, they work for you and everyone else in the room!