

# Suggested Town Hall Talking Points - Congressman Greg Walden

## **Open by thanking Congressman Walden:**

- *Thank you* for advocating for federal employees and for voting on January 9 to end the gov't shutdown.
- *Thank you* for supporting Wilderness protections for Mt. Hood in 2009.

## **Questions/Comments:**

- The Wildlands Act includes protections for areas that Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, and Representatives DeFazio and Schrader have been working on for ten years. This includes places like the Wild Rogue and Devil's Staircase. Most recently this package passed out of committee with broad bipartisan support. Why are you reaching into their districts to undo these hard won compromises, and are you concerned that they might reciprocate and start reaching into your district?
- It has been ten years since you last supported Wilderness anywhere in Oregon. With only 4% of Oregon protected, will you support increased protections for wildlife, recreation, and clean water?
- Wilderness and public lands support the outdoor recreation economy in Oregon. According to the Outdoor Industry Assoc, that generates 172,000 jobs. Please work to protect the natural treasures that support this economy.
- One of the most important things we can do as Oregonians to curb climate change is to protect our forests and allow them to store carbon for many centuries. Will you support more protections for our public forests?
- 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?
- You often mention logging as a solution to wildfires, but recent studies have shown that some types of logging can actually make wildfires worse. What are you doing to ensure that Oregon's forests are managed based on the best available science?

# 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 may have to sign up at arrival. There is no guarantee you will get called on, 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 Walden can see 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) to show why you care. Also, try to stay focused on topics that the Walden can influence such as, protecting our natural treasures as Wilderness.

***Be redundant to the point of polite annoyance.*** People sometimes hear someone else 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. Please remember that the more the Walden 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!