

**SENATE
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Dear Senator Bennett:

The Western States Legislative Forestry Task Force conducted a four-day meeting (April 5 - 9) in Washington, D.C., with key Administration officials and twenty-five Congressional representatives.

Legislators representing the states of Alaska, California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington met with White House officials, Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng, U.S. Forest Service Chief Max Peterson, and Bureau of Land Management Director Robert Burford.

Chief among the issues raised by the Task Force were:

1. Status of Tax Reform Legislation.
The Task Force urged Congress to change existing tax provisions relating to forestry which would have an adverse impact on the timber industry.
2. Effects of Gramm-Rudman Law.
The Task Force urged Congress not to penalize the revenue-producing programs such as the National Forests timber sales program.
3. Canadian Lumber Imports.
U.S. trade representatives were urged by the Task Force to negotiate an equitable solution to the ever-increasing volume of Canadian lumber being imported into the United States.

The Task Force passed a resolution supporting the continuation of forest research at the Institute of Northern Forestry in Fairbanks, Alaska, and forest survey work at Anchorage, Alaska. Copies of the resolution were provided to Congressional representatives from Task Force member states.

A resolution was also presented to Sen. Mark Hatfield of Oregon commending him for his leadership in obtaining continued funding for eradication of the Gypsy moth, which threatens forests throughout the West.

Our message of concern for the health of the forest products industry in the Northwest was well received.

Sincerely,

/s/ R. I. Eliason
Senator Dick Eliason

