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To: Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

From: Rhett Lawrence, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

Date: May 21, 2013

RE: Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement

Chair Witt and Members of the Committee: Good morning, my name is Rhett Lawrence and I'm the Conservation Director for the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club. I'm here today to present testimony both on behalf of our more than 20,000 members and supporters in Oregon and for our nearly 600,000 members nationwide. Thank you for allowing my brief comments today.

For starters, I should note that I am not an expert on this issue, but we do have several such people on staff at the Sierra Club whom I can mine for more information if it is helpful to the Committee. Secondly, even if I were an expert on this issue, it is unfortunately the case that I would not be able even then to share with you our perspective on the details and nuances of the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP). And that's because so very little of the proposal has been made available to elected officials, the media, citizen stakeholder organizations, and the people of the United States. The only people outside of the Obama Administration who could tell you what's in it are the 600-plus trade lobbyists who are certified as official representatives, on behalf of their corporations.

The Sierra Club is alarmed at this violation of citizens' right to know and we hope that hearings such as this one might help bring to light the need for much more transparency during these final stages of this negotiation process – now in its 17<sup>th</sup> round. We fear that it will be too late to affect the TPP if no one but corporate representatives know the details until it is submitted to Congress in its final form for only a Yes or No vote, without negotiation.

However, there are a few things about these issues that we do know. First, we know that there is an epidemic of illegal logging in many parts of the Pacific Rim, and that illegal logging costs United States mills and timber companies some \$1 billion a year. As you know, the Sierra Club consistently advocates for sustainable logging practices, and we believe that we should be exporting only milled lumber and wood products, not raw logs – so that we can keep the jobs in sustainable forestry in the U.S. Simply put, exporting raw logs equals exporting jobs.

We also agree with the timber industry that illegal logging in other countries – in addition to contributing to deforestation and the climate crisis – puts U.S. companies that want to engage in sustainable forestry at an even worse economic disadvantage. We cannot permit the TPP to go through without provisions addressing illegal logging.

Second, we know that illegal and indiscriminate fishing practices by others on the Pacific Rim are costing U.S. fisheries some \$15 billion per year. While Oregon has established small but sensible marine reserves, and the United States works for sustainable fisheries, others are destroying fish populations throughout the region and around the world. And as this happens, oceans are acidifying rapidly in the climate crisis, damaging and destroying oyster shell formation in Oregon bays, coral reefs, and other organisms dependent on the ocean life cycle. The TPP must not be allowed to ignore this crisis – or worsen it.

Finally, we know that one way in which the TPP could dramatically damage Oregon forests, our economy, and the global climate is by mandating automatic export approval for liquefied natural gas (LNG). The TPP would prevent the United States Department of Energy (DOE) from considering the public interest in exporting LNG to other TPP signatories. The Sierra Club shares the belief with U.S. Senator Ron Wyden and others that the DOE study on LNG export economics is fatally flawed, and that dramatic increases in manufacturing costs will come from LNG export – again, exporting U.S. jobs.

In Oregon, the two LNG export terminal and pipeline proposals are very problematic. For one thing, our coast and Coast Range forests are part of a massive earthquake and tsunami zone, with a good chance of a Magnitude 8-to-9 earthquake coming at any time in the next 50 years. And the pipelines to transport LNG, with a length of some 323 miles of clearcuts the width of interstate highways, would do severe damage to forests and watersheds, even without an earthquake. LNG export would also be a major contributor to climate destruction. In short, the TPP must not be permitted to rubber-stamp all LNG export.

In conclusion, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, with the sketchy knowledge that we now have, appears to be a bad deal for Oregon in a number of ways. We applaud your willingness to take a hard look at this deeply-flawed process and I appreciate the opportunity to come before you today.