House Committee Agriculture and Natural Resources

Thank you for allowing me to testify. Recent graphs presented by Or. DEQ showed Greenhouse Gas Emissions of (transportation-34%, waste-3%, residential-17%, commercial-14%, industrial-25% and agriculture-14%. No forest fire emission listed.

High density fuel buildup and high- intensity fire particulate emission (PM) figures from :
Pyne, Stephen J., Patricia L. Andrews, and Richard D. Laven, Introduction to Wildland Fire (1996). New York: Wiley
Battye, William, and Rebecca Battye of EC/R Incorporated. 2002. Development of Emissions Inventory Methods for Wildland Fire Final Reort, Feburary 2002, Prepared for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Contract No. 68-D-98-046, Work assignment No. 5-03
http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/ap42/ch13/related/firerept.pdf
80% of (PM) "particulate matter" is one micron or less and more than 90% of wood smoke particulate can enter the human lung up to 10 micron. (U.S. EPA)

25 to 40 pounds of (PM) is produced per ton of wood fuel burnt. Using 20 pound average of (PM)/ton of fuel, the Biscuit Fire of 2002 of 500,000 acres, with 20 ton of fuel per acre consumed produced 3,000,000 pounds of (PM).
In 2007 wildfires scorched hundreds of thousands acres in Oregon, producing an estimated 4.5 million pounds of (PM). EPA states, forest fires nationally 2000-2005 unleashed 562 million tons of carbon.

In addition in 2007 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, principally CO2, from forest fires in Oregon resulted in emissions of 56 teragram. One teragram equals 1.1023 million tons (US). Emissions from Oregon forest fires in 2007 were equivalent to GHG emissions from 11.1 million cars driven all year, and constituted as much or more than all human-caused emissions in the State combined.
Among other emissions from forest fires are carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ammonium, volatile organic compounds, formaldehyde, methanol, and air-borne lead and mercury. The Environmental Protection Agency states after years of study exposure to these PMs and compounds listed above can cause elevated cardiovascular and infant mortality. Patients with asthma, COPD, pneumonia, respiratory diseases, cardio-vascular diseases and diabetes are especially affected.
Representative's, the point I'm getting at is uncontrolled forest fires are responsible for a major source of Oregon's air pollution and I feel that the Oregon DEQ needs to factor these forest fire emissions into their graphs when they discuss air quality. By reducing forest fires we could save lives, save billions in medical costs and create 1000's of jobs working in our forests.

Thank you,
Bill J. Kluting
Carpenters Industrial Council