

Subject: Press Release: Subcommittee Reviews the Future of U.S. Forestry
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News from the House Agriculture Committee

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Subcommittee Reviews the Future of U.S. Forestry

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, Congressman Joe Baca, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition and Forestry, held a hearing to review the future of U.S. forestry policy in the United States.

The subcommittee heard testimony from the Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and from forestry advocates, environmental groups and industry representatives about issues affecting U.S. forests.

"With the beautiful San Bernardino National Forest bordering my district in California, I am deeply invested in creating policies that protect and promote our nation's forests," said Chairman Baca. "Today's hearing provided an excellent opportunity to explore the critical issues facing the future health of our forests, such as wildfire, water preservation, and climate change. By enforcing proper awareness of forestry preservation techniques, and strengthening our focus on biomass as a form of renewable energy, we can protect the beauty of America's forests for future generations of Americans to enjoy."

"Our forests are an extraordinary environmental asset and an important component of our economy. I am excited about the potential use of biomass as a form of renewable energy to help build a more sustainable energy future," said Subcommittee Ranking Member Jeff Fortenberry.

Written testimony provided by the witnesses is available on the Committee website: <http://agriculture.house.gov/hearings/index.html>.

A full transcript of the hearing will be posted on the Committee website at a later date.

Witness List

Panel I

Mr. Jay Jensen, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Washington, D.C.

Panel II

Mr. Clint Bentz, on behalf of the Oregon Tree Farm System and American Forest Foundation, Scio, Oregon . Mr. Steve Koehn, Maryland State Forester, on behalf of the National Association of State Foresters, Parkton, Maryland . Mr. Brian McPeck, North America Conservation Region Director, The Nature Conservancy, Denver, Colorado
Dr. Tom Monaghan, on behalf of the National Alliance of Forest Owners, Starkville, Mississippi . Mr. Jim D. Neiman, Vice President and CEO, Neiman Enterprises, Inc., Hulett, Wyoming . Mr. Matt Smith, on behalf of the Society of American Foresters, Falconer, New York

The U.S. House Committee on Agriculture web site <http://agriculture.house.gov> has additional information on this and other subjects.