

Dear Chairman Golden,

My name is Stuart Garrett. I am representing the East Cascade Audubon Society in Bend Oregon. One of our goals is to keep the greater sage-grouse off of the endangered species list. One of the biggest threats to these birds is fire. We have lost hundreds of thousands of acres of sage-grouse habitat in the last several years. The Rangeland Fire Protection Association program has gone a long ways towards reducing fire losses. We strongly urge continuation of this program and funding to \$1 million. Fighting invasive exotic grasses is also important. Please fully fund that program. The other key program is the CCAA program. We ask you to continue funding at the \$4000,000 dollar level. through the SWCDs. Respectfully submitted, Stuart Garrett, MD, Bend

