

# Bonamici Bulletin

By Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici



It has been exciting to start working with my new colleagues in the House. We welcomed several amazing, qualified members-elect, including many women. The diversity of the incoming members better reflects the population of our country, and their voices will help Congress better address the issues that matter most.

I will continue working on the issues that matter most to you: climate change, affordable health care, quality public education, strengthening our workforce, and more.

### Averting a Climate Crisis

In its latest attempt to diminish science, the Trump administration released the Fourth National Climate Assessment on the day after Thanksgiving when they thought no one was paying attention. But make no mistake – we noticed, and we will fight for real action to protect our environment.

The National Climate Assessment is too important, and too urgent, to

ignore. Without intervention, we will see heat waves, more acidic oceans, raging wildfires, unprecedented hurricanes, rising sea levels, and a surge in extreme weather patterns – all in our lifetime. Every day until the new Congress starts and Democrats are in the Majority, I will be sharing on Twitter important findings from the report. Please like, share, and retweet #ClimateCrisisCountdown to raise awareness about climate change and how it affects us all.

### Investing in On-the-Job Training

Efforts to get our economy back on track have benefited some, but far too many workers are still struggling to make ends meet. This month I spoke on the House floor in honor of National Apprenticeship Week and Women in Apprenticeship Day to advocate for more investments in apprenticeships and work-based learning programs.

In Oregon, we're leading the way. Women's participation in Registered Apprenticeship programs is more than double the national average. Industry partnerships, like those at the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center (OMIC), support the creation of apprenticeship programs that benefit workers and the economy as

a whole. I stand ready to fight for policies to help more people access better-paying jobs and meet the demands of our local employers.

### Standing Up for the LGBTQ Community

The Trump administration is proposing to redefine 'gender' in a way that would take away protections for 1.3 million transgender Americans and for those who are gender non-binary or intersex. I firmly oppose these harmful efforts. Equality for everyone and the right to privacy are fundamental American values that we hold dear as Oregonians. I stand with those in the transgender community and will continue to speak out when anyone disrespects you or tries to silence your voice.

### Don't Forget: It's Time to Sign Up for Health Care!

Open Enrollment for health insurance only lasts until December 15, so don't miss your chance to get covered for 2019. Most people qualify for financial help and eight in ten people can get covered for less than \$75 per month.

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# Elusive Coastal Marten Proposed for Protection Under Endangered Species Act

*Concurrent proposed special rule would exempt some routine forest activities from restriction*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to list the coastal distinct population segment (DPS) of the Pacific marten as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The coastal marten is a secretive cat-sized predator that only lives in coastal Oregon and northern coastal California. Coastal martens are stealthy hunters that lurk in dense shrub cover or areas with closed forest canopy. Major factors contributing to the coastal marten's decline include loss of habitat, wildfire, and increased threat from predators.

The coastal marten historically occurred throughout the coastal forests of northwestern California and Oregon. These mammals currently exist in four small and isolated populations with a population size that could be as low as 400 individuals or fewer.

The Service evaluated stressors

that may be impacting coastal marten populations, including loss of habitat, wildfire, changing climate, trapping, vehicle mortality, vegetation management, exposure to toxicants, threats from predators and effects associated with small and isolated populations. After a thorough evaluation of the best information and data available, the Service concluded that the cumulative impact of these stressors rises to the level that the DPS warrants listing as threatened.

If finalized, an ESA listing would mean coastal martens and their habitat are protected against harm (referred to as "take" under the act). However, the Service recognizes that certain forestry management activities associated with this species, while causing some take of martens, actually benefit population and are necessary for public safety. Accordingly, the Service is using the flexibilities inherent in the ESA to propose a special rule that would exempt certain forest management activities from the act's take prohibitions. Activities proposed for

*continued on page 7*

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