From: Cusack, Kate
To: Ray, Ed; Salwasser, Hal; Boggess, Bill; Adams, Ronald Lynn; Bloomer, Sherman - COS; Cassady, John; Holdren, Rich; Randhawa, Sabah; Lawrence, Luanne; Lynda Ciuffetti; Mills, Jock; Bene, Heather; "Mark Abbott"
Subject: Senator-Elect Merkley update
Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2008 12:26:02 PM

Hello-

I'd like to update you on a meeting I had yesterday with Senator-Elect Merkley's State Director, Jon Isaacs. Jon is an OSU alum and had served as student body president while at OSU. He is very receptive to building a strong relationship with OSU and I am looking forward to a very good working relationship with him. Jock and Jon go way back so Jock has laid the groundwork even before my meeting yesterday.

Anyhow, Jon and I spoke about Merkley's plans in the Senate, and while things may change, I thought you should be aware of the following information.

Merkley is hoping to be named to the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee. This committee has jurisdiction over the highway spending bill and environmental policy (including climate change). His top legislative initiatives that he hopes to focus on are related to renewable energy, the environment and climate change, and natural resource policy. As you may remember from his campaign commercials, his father worked in a lumber mill so he's got a family history with the forest industry. Jon and I agreed that OSU is in the perfect position to be used as a resource on all of these priorities. Jon would like to schedule meetings with key leadership and faculty as soon as they name their staff members.

They are currently trying to hire a Chief of Staff- to be located in DC- and then they will build their full staffs in both DC and in the state. I would think that they should have their staff filled out by February or so. Our meetings with the office will be dictated by their new hires and the ability for DC staffers to come back to the state. I will be in touch with you when appropriate to set up those meetings. In the meantime, please think about how you may want to approach a conversation with their office.

Let me know if you have any questions.

-Kate

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