The Olympic Peninsula and our beautiful coast draw visitors from all over. During our 22 years in Westport, we've watched people come here to fish, clam, surf, birdwatch, hike, camp, beachcomb and otherwise enjoy our wild coast. They stay in motels like ours, eat in local restaurants, shop in area stores, or choose to make their homes here—keeping our community’s cash registers ringing. In Gray’s Harbor County, travel spending alone brought in more than $253 million in 2009—directly supporting 4,900 jobs—nearly 16 percent of our county’s employment.

The Wild Olympics proposal will permanently protect the same treasures that draw these people to the Harbor—our unique low elevation ancient rainforests, sparkling wild rivers and crystal-clear water, and our abundant birds, wildlife and salmon runs. These priceless natural assets are the very foundation of both our tourism and fishing industries, and deserve the full, permanent protection Wild Olympics would provide. Tailor made by local input for access and sensitivity to the timber base, Wild Olympics will help ensure a bright economic future for all of us.