

Press Release:

## **Schrader Introduces Bill to Boost Oregon's Nursery Industry and Promote Job Creation**

01/26/10

Congressman Kurt Schrader (D-OR) today introduced the Small Business Environmental Stewardship Assistance Act of 2010, H.R. 4509, to promote the planting of trees in communities throughout the nation as well as creating jobs and economic development opportunities for Oregon's nursery industry.

"Right now we need to do everything we can to promote job creation here in Oregon," said Schrader. "This bill will provide a critical shot in the arm for Oregon's nursery industry, an important part of our local rural economy."

Schrader's bill creates a 5-year program, administered through the Small Business Administration, authorizing \$50 million annually for each of fiscal years 2011-2015. The funding provides grants to state forestry agencies to enable communities to receive funds to hire private nurseries and arborists for tree-planting projects that help to beautify retail storefronts and rental housing and parks, turn Main Streets into Green Streets, and jump-start many municipal tree canopy initiatives.

John Aguirre, Executive Director for Oregon Association of Nurseries explains how important Schrader's work is to Oregon's nursery and greenhouse industry:

"Trees generate tremendous environmental and economic benefits for our nation's urban and suburban areas. We applaud Congressman Kurt Schrader's decision to introduce the Small Business Environmental Stewardship Assistance Act of 2010."