

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Revenue and Be Placed on the Consent Calendar
Vote:	6 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Boquist, Clem, Dingfelder, Macpherson, Smith P., Roblan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Maurer
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/10, 4/24, 4/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes Task Force on Oregon's Hybrid Poplar Industry consisting of seven members appointed jointly by the Speaker of the House and the Senate President. Directs Task Force to study hybrid poplar industry and review law and rules, specifically those related to tax assessment and regulatory issues, and report back to interim committee no later than December 1, 2007.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Regulatory and tax laws applicable to forestland
- Traditional uses of poplar for pulp and paper and new uses including as source of biofuel
- Features of poplar production
- Whether poplars should be treated as an agricultural or forest product

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces original bill.

BACKGROUND: Hybrid poplars are very fast growing trees that are currently exempt from special forestland assessments when harvested on a rotation cycle of 12 years or less after planting. Such poplars are also exempt from provisions of the Forest Practices Act.

HB 3481-A establishes a task force to study the Oregon Hybrid Poplar Industry and report back to an interim committee with its recommendations no later than December 1, 2007.