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February 14, 2012

Representative Brian Clem, Co-Chair
Representative Sal Esquivel, Co-Chair
House Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Oregon State House of Representatives
Salem, Oregon

RE: House Bill 4098

Dear Rep. Clem, Rep. Esquivel, Rep. Cowan, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Boone, Rep. Jenson, Rep. Schaufler and Rep. Sprenger,

In the 1980's, as I was completing my BS in Forestry Engineering at Oregon State University, I stood by with most other Oregonians and watched the destruction of Oregon's forest industry primarily in the name of a couple of birds. Do not get me wrong as I have nothing against the Spotted Owl and the Marbled Murrelet and do value their continued existence, but to destroy the primary natural resource industry of Oregon to theoretically save some birds, it seems that the pendulum swung way too far in one direction. Because of this largely political swing, I managed to hang on to a job in the forest industry for just a couple years. Now I operate two of my family's oceanfront hotels in Yachats, Oregon.

I heartily urge you to support HB 4098 to allow increased harvest of timber off of Oregon's timberlands. Holding a degree in forestry, I certainly understand 'sustainable forestry' and this bill seems very reasonable. Increasing the annual harvest to 95% of expected growth in the State's forests allows for a 5% factor of safety in the imperfect science of forest growth measurement. And our State Foresters are continually measuring net growth and thus can adjust the harvest rates from year to year based on updated information. If it is determined that a little too much was harvested one year, they can back off of the planned harvest the next year. This increased harvest allowance will benefit many of the rural communities who have been significantly damaged over the past 30 years to rebuild their economic base and would add to county infrastructure (road improvements).

On a side note, I Chair the Oregon Travel Information Council, which is unrelated to this subject of HB 4098. However, soon after my appointment to the Council, I attended an orientation meeting for newly appointed Oregon State Board members. Governor Kulongoski charged each one of us with the following: beyond anything else, 'do what is right for Oregon.' I strongly believe that in supporting HB 4098 and passing it on for approval to the House Chamber, you will be 'doing what is right for Oregon.'

Thank you for allowing my testimony on HB 4098.

Sincerely,



Drew S. Roslund, Hotel Operator
Overleaf Lodge and Fireside Motel, Yachats, OR