



Oregon

House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

Date: February 14, 2012, 1:00 PM
Hearing Room D

Testimony: Jan Meekoms, Oregon State Director
National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB/OR)

Public Hearing: HB 4098 – Timber Harvest on State Forestlands

In the fall of 2011, NFIB's research foundation conducted a national survey among small business owners. Of the more than 3,500 that responded, 52% stated that lack of customers is their primary concern. In our monthly Small Business Optimism Index, January's report just released today, states the net percent of owners expecting better business conditions in six months was a negative 3 percent, 13 percentage points below last year's reading.

It is a well known and publicized fact - Oregon needs jobs. This bill has the potential to put Oregonians back to work in our communities that have been hardest hit by our lagging economy. Jobs create customers for our small businesses. Working Oregonians create less drain on our government services, programs and budgets.

As the economy is also directly affected by confidence. The passage of HB 4098 could, perhaps, begin to build the confidence that in Oregon jobs are being created and we are rounding the bend towards a future of prosperity rather than austerity.

NFIB Supports the HB 4098