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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 15
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MEASURE: HB 4098
EXHIBIT: 7
2012 SPECIAL SESSION H AG & NAT RES.
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SUBMITTED BY: Rep. Andy Olson

February 13, 2012

Oregon House Committee of Agriculture and Natural Resources
HR D 1:00 PM
RE: HB 4098

Co-Chairs Clem and Esquivel, and Committee Members,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify regarding House Bill 4098. This bill is a simple concept that has the ability to build a better Oregon.

Currently, Oregon's most abundant resource, timber is being underutilized. The lack of productivity has hurt Oregon's economy and its rural counties.

As the federal government owns 60% of Oregon's forest land, timber harvest on federal lands has significantly declined and unemployment rates in rural counties has drastically increased.

With that being said, HB 4098 would **not** impact activity on federal forests, but rather it is **limited to the 4%** of timber land owned by the State of Oregon.

Currently, the Oregon Department of Forestry only harvests 65 – 70% of what is allowable for the harvest under the Forest Practices Act (FPA). The -4 amendments would make a modest change to the state's current policy by requiring the state to harvest a minimum of 85% of the allowable harvest under FPA.

HB 4098 would do great things for Oregon which include the following:

- Create **2,108** jobs with an annual average wage of **\$41,848**
- Generate an additional **\$33 million** in new tax revenue over five years
- Provide an additional **\$441 million** into the private sector through personal income growth over five years

Members of the committee, like I stated before, HB 4098 would help build a better Oregon through an increase in jobs and tax revenue while preserving our federal forests.

I urge your AYE vote,

Andy
Speaker Pro-Tem

