

MEASURE: SB 1511
EXHIBIT: 39
2012 SESSION S ENV. & NAT. RESOURCES
DATE: 2-2-12 PAGES: 1
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January 27, 2012

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I write to lend my enthusiastic support for SB 1511 and HB 4126. Oregon's private forestland owners currently receive financial rewards predominantly from the sale of trees for conversion to various wood and wood-based products. Yet, these forests deliver a rich array of goods and services that greatly enhance the quality of life in Oregon, for which landowners receive no financial reward. These so-called ecosystem services are enumerated in SB 1511 and HB 4126.

Adding the potential to receive financial reward for providing ecosystem services, including wood but extending to other currently non-market outcomes, would have several beneficial outcomes. Most fundamental among them is increasing the likelihood that owners will keep their forest lands in forest uses, thus sustaining related ecosystem services. Another might be the creation of incentives to diversify the suite of values for which private forests are managed, thus increasing the provision of ecosystem services beyond what is currently delivered through adherence to the state's Forest Practice Act rules.

SB 1511 and HB 4126 are well aligned with state agency plans and would create common methodologies and definitions for what can, at times, be a confusing subject. I see SB 1511 and HB 4126 as a vital contribution to "greening" Oregon's infrastructure and human enterprise.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hal Salwasser". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Hal Salwasser