



## PACIFIC FOREST TRUST

Honored Members of the Oregon State Legislature  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon 97301

January 30, 2012

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

The Pacific Forest Trust is writing to express our strong support for SB 1511 and HB 4126. PFT is an accredited land trust and has been working for over nineteen years to create economic incentives that allow private forestland owners to maintain and restore ecological functions on their lands. We think the provisions in SB 1511 and HB 4126 create a sensible framework that emphasizes the importance of both scientifically sound landscape-level planning and of capturing the benefits of ecological stewardship for the long-term.

As an organization that manages over 7,000 acres of forest in Oregon under a working forest conservation easement, we can attest to the importance of sustained financial returns to landowners for enduring commitments to ecologically-based management. Our easement monetized the value of securing the land from development and of managing what was a heavily harvested plantation back to a structurally complex and biologically diverse forest. This forest will provide new spotted owl habitat, improve water quality, and protect and enhance existing listed salmon runs. In addition, we are in the initial stages of developing a carbon project under the Climate Action Reserve to help monetize the value of increased carbon sequestration. All the while, the land still generates income from sustainable timber harvest and provides raw materials to local mills, thus contributing jobs to Oregon's economy.

Providing multiple sources of income from lands that are managed for restoration and sustained flow of ecosystem services over the long-term is a crucial underpinning of a healthy economy. We think that SB 1511 and HB 4126 will help create more economic opportunities for rural landowners while ensuring that the landscapes in which Oregonians live and recreate are ecologically resilient well into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paula Swedeen", written in black ink.

Paula Swedeen, Ph.D.  
Director of Ecosystem Services  
The Pacific Forest Trust  
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