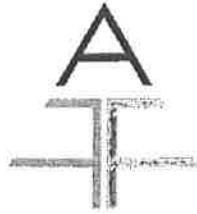


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American Forest Foundation

January 24, 2011

Oregon State Legislators
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Oregon State Legislators,

The American Forest Foundation (AFF) writes in support of the bill, Strengthening Oregon's Ecosystems Through Market Solutions (SB 1511 & HB 4126). Speaking on behalf of 83,000 American Tree Farm System family forest owners across the country, AFF commends you for your leadership in developing ecosystem-based markets and incentives for land conservation and management—among the most promising and important new tools we have for sustaining and protecting America's private forests.

AFF works with small landowners in Oregon and across the country through the American Tree Farm System to help keep their forests as forests and to practice good forest stewardship. In this approach, we assist landowners in meeting their individual goals while ensuring that the public benefits provided by private forests, such as clean drinking water and productive wildlife habitat, are protected.

Because ecosystem-based markets and incentives hold such promise for helping us accomplish our mission, we have invested significant resources in working with local partners across the country to establish and nurture these markets. Yet, as promising as all this is, well-functioning markets are still largely in the formative stages. Much needs to be done to ensure they become a reality and have beneficial impacts at a broader scale. SB 1511 and HB 4126 would help do exactly that by directing relevant state agencies to coordinate their ecosystem-based market development efforts toward this purpose. Moreover, because Oregon is at the forefront of developing these markets, the passage of SB 1511 and HB 4126 could have national impact by spurring other states to take similar action.

The American Forest Foundation again thanks you for your leadership on this important bill and looks forward to its enactment.

Sincerely,

Tom Martin
President and CEO
American Forest Foundation