



# Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.

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February 9, 2012

## Testimony to Support HB 4002 – Dash-1 Amendment

House Committee on Higher Education  
The Honorable, Co-Chairs Michael Dembrow and Mark Johnson  
900 Court Street, Room 453  
Salem, Oregon 97310

Co-Chairs Dembrow & Johnson, and Members of the Committee:

For the record, I am Rex Storm, Forest Policy Manager for Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc., located in Salem, Oregon. I speak on behalf of the statewide trade group's nearly 1,000 member companies. These companies engage in a full-range of forestry contract operations, including: harvest, fire protection, reforestation, transportation, construction, resource maintenance, and forestry services. Many of these firms also own family forestlands and pay harvest tax.

I am also interested in this bill for two added reasons: as a tree farm owner in Columbia County; and as a Certified Forester.

**I am here today to support HB 4002 – Dash-1, and urge you to pass the bill.**

Associated Oregon Loggers supports this bill because it would create a Forestry Education Council that would foster increased and carefully-directed financial commitment to forestry education in Oregon—via improved cooperation between the Oregon State University College of Forestry and the private forest sector.

The College of Forestry's education programs are a vital foundation of our state's forest sector—an economic engine that's one of Oregon's top-3 traded good sectors. To keep this forest sector competitive, we need to assure that College of Forestry continues being a leader, as one of the few schools in America providing professional education for foresters, forest engineers, forest science, and wood products.

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We support the bill for four key reasons:

1. Educating young forest professionals is becoming increasingly important in the near future—to replace the infrastructure capacity lost due to the protracted forest sector recession, lost to declining federal forestry, and lost to escalating baby boomer retirement. The bill would bolster cooperative investment in educating a larger needed workforce in the future.
2. Oregon forests have the sustainable growing capability to yield 1.5 to 2 times the current timber supply. Industry experts project that future increased harvest and manufacturing will demand a larger forest sector workforce. The bill would assist with educating the professionals needed to lead this economic growth.
3. We are concerned that core forestry education functions at the College of Forestry are at risk, because of increasingly strained General Fund and higher education budgets. The bill would both improve effectiveness of dollars spent and increase private contributions, into forestry education investment.
4. The forest sector needs assurance that the private investments at the OSU College of Forestry will meet the sector's future workforce needs. The bill would provide an effective vehicle to foster expanded investment targeted toward those disciplines and specialties necessary to assure Oregon's forest sector remains America's top structural wood grower and producer.

HB 4002 provides an effective vehicle to cultivate expanded investment in tomorrow's workforce—a professional workforce investment needed to begin now to innovate and grow Oregon's forest sector!

Thank you for your consideration.