



Providing Opportunity to Family Forestland Owners

February 7, 2013

To: House Land Use Committee

RE: HB 2441

My name is Jim James. I am Executive Director of the Oregon Small Woodland Association (OSAW). OSWA is a membership trade organization that represents the interests of Oregon's family forest owners. We have active members and chapters throughout the state. HB 2441 will give owners of land zoned as forestland authority to build a structure to store equipment needed to manage their forests the same as owners of agriculturally zoned lands have to build structures needed to their use of the land for agriculture.

Most family owned forests are too small to economically hire contractors to do small thinning, logging, or salvage projects; road maintenance; or forest management activities. Many have their own equipment such as tractors, skidders, small cats, firefighting equipment, and hand tools to manage their property. Current law does not allow forest landowners to build pole buildings to store equipment needed to efficiently manage their forests, if their land is zoned as forestland. Current law does allow agricultural landowners to do so. This bill would bring equity to forest landowners with agricultural land owners to do exactly the same thing, provide authority to construct a building to assist them in the management of their property zoned for that specific use.

OSWA has members who have had equipment vandalized or stolen because they had no option to construct a building to securely store the equipment. Some family forest owners can be defined as being land rich and cash poor. OSWA has members who spend dollars to transport equipment, to a safe location when not in use, that could be used for better investments in their property. Equipment left out in the weather can also cause landowners unnecessary and additional expense. Asking for the authority to build a structure on one's forestland to assist them in the management of their forest is not an unreasonable request. Please support HB 2441.

Thanks,

Jim James
Executive Director
Oregon Small Woodlands Association