



*A Division of Hancock Timber Resource Group,
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The Honorable Sen. Chris Edwards, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol
Room H-178
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Senator Edwards;

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and the pending review of their budget in your committee. As manager of large timberland property I have a long standing relationship with the ODF and a great deal of respect for the local and regional district leadership I have interfaced with over time.

As a landowner we participate on Association Boards for Douglas County, Klamath and Southwest districts. The rigor and discipline associated with the budget process at the district level is always exemplary and district foresters and district managers understand the process well. Districts are always proactive in keeping buildings, grounds and equipment in top shape. Local managers are very sensitive to landowner input and the delicate balance between General Fund and landowner dollars that needs to stay in sharp focus throughout the budget process.

As Chair of the Emergency Fire cost Committee I have had an additional opportunity to really view the department from "inside" if you will more than most. It is a pleasure to see how responsive the department's leadership is to focus on cost saving measures and implement new guidelines at the district level that have been developed by the committee. Audits of large fire costs over the years have returned De minimis findings, which further exemplifies clarity and understanding of cost accounting within the context of large fire expenditures.

I greatly appreciate your consideration and support of the upcoming ODF budget review.

Sincerely,

Kenneth P. Cummings