

April 15, 2013

To: House Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee

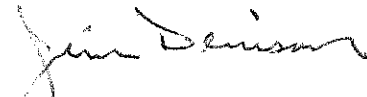
Re: HB 2615.2

My name is Jim Denison I am a retired Professional Forester and Land Surveyor. I have managed timber lands for several companies in Lincoln County, Oregon, over the past 60 years. My wife Betty and I own a tree farm in Lincoln County, Oregon, near Eddyville. We were victims of a "Truffle Trespass" last year, but not aware of this until notified by County Sheriff Deputy Gary Davey (who apprehended the thieves). He determined the theft was from our lands and we were subpoenaed to appear in court on March 12, 2013. During the hearing the person that was arrested told the court that he had placed spores on the roots of my trees in question, therefore the truffles belonged to him. My concern is that he didn't own the trees, and with the excessive raking, insects and disease could damage the trees. Deputy Gary Davey can explain the situation with his testimony and the results of the trial. Our concern is that many Small Woodland owners can be subjected to this problem, and especially when they are absentee owners of young tree stands and not living on the lands 24-7.

From my experience, I know that theft of various products from forest lands has been a problem for many years, and because trespass is hard to prove in court, whether it be fishing, hunting, or firewood cutting, some protection for land owners is needed. It is hard to enumerate the many items growing in the forest, but adding the wild Fungi as "Special Forest Products" will help. I would urge the adoption of wording used in House bill HB 2615.2 and call them "Special Forest Products".

The Forest Patrol officers in the Counties are to be commended for their efforts to control theft on such large areas of land.

Thank you,



Jim Denison
Tree Farmer