



**Providing Opportunity to Family Forestla**

MEASURE: HB 2615 A  
EXHIBIT: 10  
SEN. RURAL COMMUNITIES &  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
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SUBMITTED BY: J. JAMES

May 14, 2013

To: Senate Rural Communities and Economic Development Committee

RE: HB 2615

My name is Jim James. I am Executive Director of the Oregon Small Woodland Association (OSWA). 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. OSWA members own and manage over 250,000 acres of Oregon's forests. OSWA supports HB 2615 which allows truffles to be identified by law as a "special forest product".

A truffle is an edible fungus that is found in Oregon forests growing around the roots of certain tree species when the soil quality, temperature and moisture are adequate for truffle growth. They are regarded as a delicacy and can be very valuable.

Many family forest owners rely on the income from secondary forest products, like truffles, to assist them in managing their forests and maintaining them as healthy forests. There is a good market for truffles in Oregon and ripe truffles can be very profitable. Truffle theft has become a problem for forest owners. Currently, truffles are not listed as a "special forest product" and HB 2615 corrects this oversight. With this correction, it will be clear truffles have value and are not subject to theft from forest visitors. Without it, forest owners are vulnerable to truffle theft and damage to their property.

I urge you to support HB 2615. It corrects a legal problem created by a growing popularity and value of Oregon truffles.

Thanks,

Jim James  
Executive Director  
Oregon Small Woodlands Association