

Longview Timber, Corp.

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May 14, 2013

Senator Arnie Roblan, Chair
Senate Committee on Rural Communities and Economic Development
900 Court Street NE, Room 347
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Longview Timber, Corp. Supports A-Engrossed HB 2615 and the corresponding -A3 proposed amendments.

Dear Chair Roblan and Members of the Committee:

Longview Timber, Corp. (Longview Timber) owns and manages approximately 325,000 acres of timberland in Oregon supporting approximately 300 jobs through our employees and contractors who help grow, harvest, and sell logs to domestic and international customers. Longview Timber has made an effort to allow our lands to be open to the public for recreation for a wide range of activities in areas that are not part of our active operations. We recognize the importance of access in the communities we work in and appreciate the respect most visitors give when accessing our lands.

However, allowing public access also brings unwanted activities on our lands and requires a diverse set of strategies to minimize risk to our property and public resources. Part of our risk management includes working closely with legitimate contractors to harvest specialty forest products. Our experience has shown that when we work with legitimate businesses to harvest specialty forest products, illegal harvesting and the negative social and environmental impacts that come with it, are often less frequent and less significant.

While fostering a legitimate specialty forest products industry is important, enforcement of illegal specialty forest product harvest is critical to managing these products and other public resources. HB 2615 provides a clear definition of specialty forest products and also provides a faster mechanism to change the definition as the industry evolves. Both of these changes make it easier for law enforcement to prosecute illegal harvest of specialty forest products.

Longview Timber appreciates and supports the efforts of county and state law enforcement to enforce these regulations. We recognize that illegal harvest of specialty forest products does not just cause damage to timberland owners, but supports a broader criminal enterprise that has far greater social impacts in rural communities.

Please support the -A3 proposed amendments to the A - Engrossed House Bill 2615.

Sincerely,



Adrian Miller
Manager of Policy and Sustainability