

House Bill 2050 Hearing \_ Salem, Oregon  
Testimony in support of **HB2050 \_ Wildfire Protection Act**  
February 28, 2013 at 8AM  
Scott Hanson

- My name is Scott Hanson. I am life-long Oregonian, a resident of Clackamas County, and a small woodland owner for over 30 years .
- I am speaking in support of HB 2050, Wildfire Protection Act.
- My woodland property is located in Clackamas and Marion County.
- I am a past President of Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association and the current President-Elect of Oregon Small Woodlands Association
- Fires can impact the safety of all Oregon citizens. Fires can damage recreational areas, water quality, wildlife habitat, wood fiber production. Fire knows no boundaries.
- From Oregon's history, there is a long-standing partnership between forest owners and the state to jointly fund fire protection on private forests.
- Through much state history, a balance was struck where forest owners and the state split costs evenly at a 50/50.
- Current funding is unbalanced with landowners picking up 80% of fire fighting costs.
- HB2050 will help return the two groups to greater parity.
- Under HB 2050, landowners will invest \$3 mm to keep fires smaller and less expensive to the state.
- In return we seek parity by modifying Oregon's fire insurance policy deductible and providing Eastern Oregon tax relief.
- The public receives more fire protection benefits than landowners in Eastern Oregon, so the general fund should shoulder more costs.
- The deductible currently has landowners paying 1<sup>st</sup> \$10 mm dollars, and the general fund picking up the next \$15mm. We seek parity for first dollar spent to the cover the deductible.
- Thank you for your time.