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March 12, 2013

Representative Brad Witt, Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Room 347, State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97310

**RE: HB 3199 – Relating to civil actions regarding forest fires.**

Dear Chair Witt and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Forest Industries Council supports HB 3199. Sky lanterns, tracer ammunition, and exploding targets all pose a threat to timberland owners, particularly during the dry summer months of Oregon's fire season. Use of these devices has caused fire damage to private landowners, and inflicted burdens on the public far outweighing any recreational utility.

Sky lanterns may be fun to release, but uncontrolled floating fires have no place on forestlands during a fire season. The same can be said of burning ammunition or exploding targets.

OFIC supports the intent of the -1 amendments, and believes the relevant definitions are vastly improved. However, the -1 amendments also propose to add language establishing the presence of sky lanterns, exploding targets, or tracer ammunition as prima facie evidence of the location of the release or discharge of the device. This language can be improved to clarify that the presence of such devices is prima facie evidence of the violation of the statute, notwithstanding the precise location of the release or discharge.

OFIC will continue to work with the sponsors to tighten amendment language, and would ask for your support of those revisions. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach me at the number and address above.

Very truly yours,

Heath Curtiss  
General Counsel, Director of Government Affairs  
Oregon Forest Industries Council