



From the desk of
Rep. Wayne Krieger

From the desk of
Rep. Jeff Barker



TO: MEMBERS OF THE OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DATE: APRIL 25, 2013

RE: SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 2595 & 2596

The undersigned organizations urge your affirmative vote on House Bills 2595 and 2596 which have been brought to you with a unanimous "do pass" approval of the House Judiciary Committee.

These measures are quite simple, but very timely. They make it perfectly clear that there will be legal consequences for people who choose to physically obstruct or hinder the right of a private contractor to perform his/her contractual obligations in managing the forests of our state. For many years, forest contractors have been subject to protests, harassment and, sometimes the threat of physical harm, as they attempt to conduct legally approved activities in the forests. These illegal activities have cost untold amounts of time, energy, employment and financial losses for contractors in the State of Oregon. When arrests are made, the perpetrators are usually back on the streets the same day. HB 2595 and 2596 should make illegal protestors think twice about obstructing commerce.

HB 2595 makes illegal obstruction of forest management activities a Class A misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class C felony for subsequent convictions. The latter will carry a minimum 13 month incarceration and a \$25,000 fine. HB 2596 simply clarifies, with certainty, that contractors subject to illegal harassment may pursue remuneration for actual damages from those conducting the illegal activities.

These measures have been a long time in coming. Together, they provide the forest workers of our state some minimum level of protection from the illegal activities of those who wish to deny them the right to pursue their professional careers and to perform their legal contractual responsibilities.

Please cast a "Yes" vote on HB 2595 and HB 2596.