

Raszka Shelley

From: Cameron La Follette <cameron@oregoncoastalliance.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 3:03 PM
To: Raszka Shelley
Cc: Sen Roblan
Subject: SB 1575 testimony

Dear Sen. Roblan, Members of the Committee on Rural Communities and Economic Development, and Ms. Raszka,

Oregon Coast Alliance is an Oregon nonprofit corporation whose mission is to protect coastal natural resources and work with local residents to achieve this goal.

You will have before you on Thursday SB 1575, which proposes expansions of activity allowed on forest-zoned and farm-forest zoned lands to include not only primary processing of logs, but manufacturing and processing of logs into 'end-use' products. Oregon Coast Alliance opposes this bill.

Clearly this bill if passed would change the face of forest-zoned lands through out the coastal zone, and other areas of Oregon as well. "Primary processing" should include only the basic activities, such as debarking and milling of logs. Otherwise, the forestlands of Oregon become industrial manufacturing zones, which would set a very dangerous precedent. Not only would fire suppression needs be increased in any areas where a facility is placed, but related uses such as parking, cafeteria, bathrooms, and so on, would clearly be needed at any such facility.

There is a great deal of timber-cutting and "management" in the coastal zone all the time. But logs are taken to a pulp mill and/or other kind of processing facility in industrial zones in towns. It should stay that way, so that sewer/water can be available to the industry, and so that accessory development like expanded parking, road upgrades, additional facilities and housing don't start to be proposed next to the allowed plant out in the forest zoned land. Development pressure would surely happen, and more conflicts would occur later, with the net result of reducing the forest base in Oregon.

Clearly an additional central problem with the bill is Sec. 2, which allows a *permanent* facility. The bill would lead to (for example) permanent bio-chip facilities in rural areas, though that is an industrial use that should be in an industrial park, where infrastructure is available. Worse yet, such a facility could be located on the farm portion of a mixed farm-forest zone, thus causing conflicts with, and reduction in land base for, farming.

Primary processing should not include other activities that would be permitted if this bill became law: furniture factories, box factories and similar industrial uses in forest and farm-forest zones. It is irrelevant if the expanded uses would be outright permitted uses or conditional uses, since the *scope* of the expanded allowed activity would remain the same. Perhaps the most damaging aspect of this bill is its precedent-setting nature. If this forest-use expansion is allowed, every other industry using raw products of some kind grown in rural areas will seek a similar expansion, because "green field" development is often cheaper in the short run than siting in urban areas.

Oregon Coast Alliance urges the Committee to turn down SB 1575. It is an ill-considered and inappropriate expansion of industrial uses onto forest and farm-forest lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Cameron

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