

February 16, 2015

**Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources**

Senator Chris Edwards, Chair  
Senator Alan Olsen, Vice-Chair  
Senator Michael Dembrow

Senator Floyd Prozanski  
Senator Chuck Thomsen

**RE: SB 24 (consolidating natural resource agencies) – OPPOSE**

Dear Chair Edwards, Vice-Chair Olsen and members of the committee:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we respectfully oppose Senate Bill 24, which would consolidate Oregon's natural resources agencies. We believe each of these agencies plays an important role in monitoring, regulating and interacting with the respective stakeholders who have an interest in each agency's jurisdiction.

Natural resource groups are opposed to SB 24 because:

- This bill is a solution in search of a problem.
- Many agencies are governed by appointed boards or commissions that develop expertise on difficult issues and guide agencies. By consolidating agencies, Oregon will lose significant informed public agency oversight.
- The listed agencies have different and diverse interests and roles. Consolidation will blur the lines between those important distinct differences and could create new problems as opposed to solving any current issues.
- The regulated community is highly skeptical that any benefits or efficiencies will be realized through agency consolidation.
- We believe that the governance of natural resources is complex and requires knowledgeable leadership and distinct roles for the complicated issues each agency faces.

Respectfully,

Jeff Stone, Executive Director  
Oregon Association of Nurseries

Katie Fast, Vice President of Public Policy  
Oregon Farm Bureau

Jim Geisinger, Executive Vice President  
Associated Oregon Loggers

Kristina McNitt, President  
Oregon Forest Industries Council

Jim James, Executive Director  
Oregon Small Woodlands Association

Mike McArthur, Executive Director  
Association of Oregon Counties

Mike Freese, Vice President  
Associated Oregon Industries

Roger Beyer, Executive Director  
Oregon Seed Council

Blake Rowe, CEO  
Oregon Wheat Growers League

Jean Godfrey, Executive Director  
Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers

Paul Lewis, President  
Oregon Sheep Growers Association

Roger Beyer  
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association

Roger Beyer  
Oregon Blueberry Commission

Paulette Pyle, Grass Roots Director  
Oregonians for Food and Shelter