

Date: March 5, 2015

To: Oregon House of Representative Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

From: Clair Klock – Farmer and Resource Conservationist - Corbett, OR

Chair Witt and members of the committee

I am Clair Klock – a Farmer Corbett, OR in the Columbia Gorge. I have farmed full and part-time for the last 35 years. I hold Oregon Department of Agriculture certification as a private pesticide applicator and consultant. I have and continue to use restricted chemicals in my farming operation as needed. My wife and I own 27 acres which is mostly forest land. I have been employed as a Conservation Specialist with soil and water conservation districts and have served as director on our local conservation district. I have extensive experience in natural resources education for both children and adults.

I listened with interest to the expert and public testimony on HB 2808, 2997 and 2998

I am familiar with the massive undertaking of Western juniper control due to the work of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

I urge your support of the bills for all the reasons list in the last hearing. However, I would like you to consider and act on the following points.

1. What happens when the marketing is successful, the one shift a day turns to 2 and 3 shifts a day and then the product availability dries up due to intense cutting. Where do we go of job then? Ask the former residences of Kinzua and Valetz what happens when there is overcutting.
2. Having experienced as a farmer and as a conservation specialist tells me that agricultural riparian areas are not protected as well as they should be. The Oregon Department of Agriculture is in the process of addressing this problem. The Oregon Department of Forestry is in the process of increasing riparian protection on state and private forestland due to public demand and federal mandates.
3. I agree that state and federal land should be included, however there needs to be specific areas that are left to old growth juniper. We all know that there are people who would cut the last tree, fish the last fish and commandeer the last drop of water for a dollar. Please earmark reserves to preserve this type of habitat or it will go the way of the conifer old growth forest.

Thank you for your attention.