



March 30, 2015

**Testimony in Opposition to HB 2985:**

For Public Hearing Scheduled on March 31, 2015, Before the  
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

**To Chair Witt, Vice-Chairs Krieger and McLain, and Members of the**

**Committee:** The City of Lake Oswego opposes HB 2985 in its present form.

This bill, as introduced, abrogates cities' home rule authority, and preempts locally-adopted ordinances and zone regulations. Section 4 of the bill states that "a local government may not enforce an ordinance to require or prohibit the removal of a tree that is enrolled in a forestry product cooperative project." This overrules local decision-making about compatible land uses, public safety, aesthetics and urban forest management.

In addition to nullifying city tree regulations, HB 2985 preempts local zoning codes designed to protect residential neighborhoods from the impacts of industrial and commercial activities. The bill authorizes forestry products to be "commercially produced and marketed" in areas that local communities may have decided should be limited to less-impactful uses.

HB 2985 could also result in damage to streets and other public infrastructure not planned or designed to accommodate commercial tree-harvesting activities.

The City of Lake Oswego respectfully urges you to oppose HB 2985 in its present form.

Sincerely,

Kent Studebaker, Mayor