



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Forestry

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Honorable Brian Clem, Chair
House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use, and Water
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301



*"STEWARDSHIP
IN FORESTRY"*

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 3412. The legislation directs the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) to develop a comprehensive landslide hazard mitigation program in consultation with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and other parties, and to appoint an advisory committee to aid in the development of that program. This would include measures for forestland to mitigate potential landslide hazards under a broad range of conditions.

ODF is neutral on House Bill 3412. At this time, ODF would like to bring to the attention of the Committee that bill language would have to be clarified to avoid a statutory conflict. Specifically, Section 1(3)(e) of House Bill 3412 conflicts with the statutory authority given to the Board of Forestry in ORS 527.630.

Under the Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA) as described in ORS 527.630, ODF is given the authority to implement landslide regulations where a possible risk to public safety exists in the context of timber harvesting and forest road building. The FPA is designed by statute to contribute to the social, economic, and environmental goals of the State of Oregon by ensuring economically efficient forest practices. ODF also implements rules and voluntary forest practice measures to mitigate the impact of debris torrent prone areas such that they provide large woody debris and gravel to improve fish habitat and stream complexity.

We would be happy to work with members of the committee to address this issue in the bill.

Sincerely,

Peter Daugherty
Private Forests Division Chief
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c: Doug Decker, State Forester
Richard Whitman, Governor's Natural Resources Policy Advisor
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ODF Legislative Tracking Unit