

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources,

I strongly urge you to support Policy Option Packages 131, 132, and 133 for the Department of Forestry. Crucial state forest recreation, education, research, and monitoring programs are drastically underfunded, which significantly compromises the value provided by the Tillamook & Clatsop state forests to Oregonians.

We live on the northern coast in a community close to the forests and dependent on them for fish and game habitat as well as recreational opportunities that bring tourism and business to our neighbors. We need the state to understand how important those uses other than industrial timber harvesting are to us and everyone else in the state. Please allow funding that will give Oregon the means to better care for our valuable resources in a sustainable way.

These allocations you are considering will go a long way in allowing the Department of Forestry to provide the comprehensive, science-based management that Oregonians expect from these lands.

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