

**A Resolution Supporting
Free Trade and Open Markets For Oregon Wood Products
By The Oregon Logging Conference
February 19, 2015**

WHEREAS, Oregon's forest industry produces a wide array of wood products including lumber, plywood, pulp, paper, chips and logs that are marketed internationally. Our industry's competitiveness and viability relies on access to international markets just like agricultural products, livestock and minerals that are internationally traded commodities, and

WHEREAS, a timber supply crisis exists in Oregon due entirely to the federal government's inability to manage its forest assets (60 percent of the state's forest land) in a sustainable and responsible manner. Because of this supply shortage, some in Congress and the State Legislature believe a solution is to deny the industry access to international markets and force private landowners to sell their timber assets to domestic processing facilities, and

WHEREAS, under federal and state laws, timber from public forest lands cannot be exported into international markets. Furthermore, private landowners who choose to market their logs internationally are denied the opportunity to purchase federal timber for domestic processing purposes. The fact is, the only timber that can be exported is from private forest lands owned by entities that cannot purchase federal timber, and

WHEREAS, the suggested solution is to offer a "tax credit" or some other artificial "incentive" to private landowners to sell their timber products to domestic processing facilities rather than into international markets. While the proponents of this concept describe this concept as an "incentive," others might call it a "subsidy," and

WHEREAS, the more desirable solution to the timber supply shortage is to increase supply from federal forest lands sufficient to supply domestic processing facilities rather than to deny private landowners access to free trade and open markets, and

WHEREAS, the value of free trade to the industry was made quite apparent during the last four year recessionary period when domestic markets collapsed and international markets kept much of the industry's logging sector intact when it would have otherwise disappeared due to lack of work.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oregon Logging Conference (OLC) go on record in support of open markets and free trade for all products produced by Oregon's forest products industry, and in opposition to legislative efforts to artificially manipulate or constrain access to international markets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the OLC urge Congress and the State Legislature to focus its efforts on the real timber supply issue, which is the proper sustainable management of our federal forests that represent 60 percent of all the state's forest lands, yet produce just 10 percent of the annual statewide timber harvest.