



# Council of Forest Trust Land Counties

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## **CFTLC SUPPORTS HOUSE BILL 2453A**

*Comments by Gil Riddell, Executive Director, Council of Forest Trust Land Counties, on April 27, 2015, to the Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee.*

The Council of Forest Trust Land Counties represents the 15 counties that transferred forestlands to the State of Oregon over time under the Forest Acquisition Act (1941) in exchange for a share of revenues from and participation in management policy of, those lands. The lands are now bountiful State Forests, the Tillamook, Clatsop, Sun Pass, and others.

### **CFTLC wholeheartedly supports HB 2453A.**

Large for-profit events commonly called “raves” have been reoccurring on State Forests, without any prior notice to county law enforcement, because these events are advertised by social media. A regulatory structure needs to be adopted that addresses these events, because of the dangers they pose:

- Illegal drugs;
- Participants as young as 12;
- Large campfires that endanger the forest;
- Unregulated traffic, parking, and noise that can extend for days;
- Risks of physical injury to participants;
- Lack of sanitation facilities; and
- The condition of the site after the event has ended and participants have left (including the promoter with his profits).

HB 2453A was appropriately amended in the House to more clearly exempt responsible tradition gatherings, which CFTLC considers opportunities for Oregonians to appreciate, learn about, and enjoy the State Forests as working forestlands. To be regulated, the crowd size must exceed 35 people and 15 motor vehicles at any one time and cannot continue for more than 120 hours in a 90-day period. Moreover, the House added authority for the Department of Forestry to adopt rules requiring buffer zones between these events and forest practices.

For the health and safety of the public and the forests, CFTLC respectfully urges you to pass HB 2453A to the Senate for adoption.

Thank you for your committee’s consideration of our request.