

Dear Representative Clem and Committee Members,

We are writing to you today to voice our strong opposition to HB3226. This bill is a dramatic overreach and would be disastrous to Oregon's forest owners and economy. In 1971 Oregon adopted the Forest Practices Act, a landmark piece of regulation that has guided sensible and sustainable management of commercial forests for decades. Our family owns a small company that owns and manages forest lands as our primary business. Joining with other owners of commercial forests in Oregon we have supported practical scientific and sensible policy justified changes to the act over the years. HB3226 is **neither!** HB 3226 is a wrong-headed attack focused on forestry by a narrow special interest group determined to undermine the Oregon Department of Forestry and forest owners by implementing punitive and destructive regulations.

Please understand the potential damage waiting if HB 3226 were passed:

As with farm crops or any commodity product, the timing to meet market demand is crucial. Timber is no different. HB3226 would place lengthy delays on approval to commence harvest activities. This will greatly jeopardize our ability to make a profit from our forest investment.

HB 3226 requires greatly increased streamside buffer areas. This unjustified action would prohibit harvest on tens of thousands of dollars of forest land on our small acreage.

This proposal significantly restricts our ability to build forest roads on our property. These roads are needed for fire protection, work to improve growth and protect our forest from pests and access timber harvest. The writers of HB 3226 obviously have no experience in this area and no understanding of forest stewardship.

HB 3226 allows local governments to adopt regulations more restrictive than state law. We own lands in multiple counties placing us in a position of regulation without representation. This potential for a random patchwork of regulation without oversight would be a nightmare.

These are just a few of the egregious and injurious regulations embedded into HB 3226. The language of HB 3226 is loaded with restrictive, punitive and costly measures that will take the ability of small woodland owners to pass a gainful forest investment on to the next generation. One just needs to look at California to understand how overreaching regulation will thwart good management of small forest ownerships. In California, over-regulation has made harvest so complicated and costly, many small forest owners have

determined it's not worth the effort and have abandoned their small tract forests to pests and mortality.

This is not the Oregon way. Working forests are important to Oregon's rural economy. We have a long history of sustainable and collaborative management under the Oregon Forest Practices Act. We talk much about the importance to re-energize rural Oregon; HB 3226 will achieve the opposite, causing great damage to our forests and people.

Sincerely,

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