

March 28,2017

Dear Legislators;

If it is not broken, don't fix it. Oregon's Forest Practices Act well addresses the environmental concerns of the land. This proposed HB3226, as well intentioned as the authors may be, would be devastating to the woodland owners in Oregon, especially small woodland owners. It would provide the opportunity for anyone opposed to harvesting trees to block the harvest. You need to consider that every tree that is standing today will at some point fall down over time. If the wood is not put into use as in a house or building, but left to naturally decompose, it will give off carbon rich gases. When the wood is used for a structure, the carbon is fixed and not released into the atmosphere. Forests are the machine that removes the carbon and healthy forests managed by woodland owners with the assistance of the Oregon Department of Forestry applying the current regulations do a fine job.

Adding more regulations and costs to do the harvest increases the number of trees that will need to be cut to make economic sense. Many small woodland owners value their forests and prefer to only cut on a sustainable basis. I urge you to not pass this bill.

Respectfully,

Scott Russell

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