

To: The House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Re HB 3226, Hearing March 30, 2017, at 8:00 AM in Hearing Room D

Representative Clem, Chair, Representatives McLain and Sprenger, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committee:

My husband and I own a small forest outside McMinnville. I have been active in forestry issues for many years as a Master Woodland Manager and also as a member of the Committee for Family Forestlands, a citizen board appointed by the Board of Forestry to advise it on matters affecting small woodlands. In my final year on the Committee, I served as its Chair.

As a forest owner, HB 3226 concerns me greatly.

I will attend and hopefully speak at the Hearing on March 30, but I want to give you an opportunity to look over exhibits I will refer to.

Attached are:

- * A map prepared by the Department of Forestry showing forest land ownership in the state of Oregon. Small (non-industrial) forestlands are shown in red.
- * A map of Yamhill County taken from the knowyourforests.org website. Here, small forestlands are shown in bright light green.
- * Forestry & Wood Products in Oregon from the oregonforests.org website. Small private forests are shown in light green on these charts.

These maps show that small woodlands ring our deeper forests (public and industrial) and also ring our populated areas. These are the woods most people are familiar with -- the forests they see from their homes and pass on the road. The fact that there has been "no change in [the] number of forested acres in Oregon since 1953: still 33 million acres" as the data sheet states is due to both Oregon's visionary land use law and the commitment of small forest owners to their lands. Measures like the proposed HB 3226, which impose both costs and restrictions on the management of small forests, will only serve to increase already existing pressures to remove these lands from forestry and develop them for residential, commercial, and hobby farm uses.

I look forward to the opportunity to tell you more about Oregon's woodland owners at Thursday's hearing.

Yours,

Susan Watkins

13440 SW McCabe Chapel Road

McMinnville, Oregon 97128

503-474-9544