

David D. Rankin
85668 South Slough Road
Westlake, OR 97493

March 29, 2017

Dear Representative McKeown,

My wife Dianne and I live on 184 acres of forestland at the above address along the South Inlet of the Siuslaw River. We have lived here since 1976 and in the Florence area since 1963. We are lifetime Oregonians and proud of it. I was born in Coquille in 1937 and raised there. I've been a "coastie" for a long time. Our efforts at maintaining our property and practicing responsible forest management resulted in Rankin Woodlands being honored as the 2016 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year by the Oregon Tree Farm System.

The purpose of this letter is to express concern over HB 3226.

As you know, this bill is nothing less than a move to completely rewrite the Oregon Forest Practices Act. The sponsors of this bill aim to overhaul rules for forest management to suit their opinions of how we should live. As I see it, their ultimate goal is to eventually eliminate management, utilization and harvest of Oregon timberlands. I honestly do not understand how the importance of forest products can be lost on them. Do they not get the connection of the house they live in to the forest and lumber industry? This bill is full of concern for all associated with Oregon's timber industry and culture. Forests are vital to our economy. Decimated by bans upon harvesting from National Forests, the industry keeps moving with harvests from private lands like ours.

Let me point out a couple ways HB 3226 would affect us if adopted.

Buffers for fish bearing streams would be increased to 150 feet. Non-fish bearing streams would get a 100 foot buffer. Management within those areas would be greatly impacted and eliminated. If those rules were in effect during our 24 acre harvest in 2014, they would have conflicted our harvest plans. These set asides would have split the harvest area into two parcels and complicated harvest methods. I could go on about riparian protections. The 150' Riparian Management Zone (RMZ) along South Inlet where we left all trees and vegetation is adequate. The proposal to establish 200' RMZ's around wetlands of 2 acres or more would eliminate a substantial portion of our future harvests. I believe protections are important but the proposed rules are excessive and would not really improve conditions for fish and other denizens of the forests beyond the present protections we observe.

We are proud to have contributed to the economy with our harvest efforts. Fallers, loggers, truckers, foresters and suppliers of fuel and logging equipment benefitted. To be sure, our harvest wasn't the sum total of Oregon's economy. However, we did fit into the "big picture."

HB 3226 proposes too many complicated and draconian changes to the Oregon Forest Practices Act. I suggest a comprehensive consideration of its effects and urge a "No Pass" declaration for this bill.