

New Meadows Tree Farm

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March 29, 2017

The Honorable Brian Clem
Oregon House of Representatives
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97310

Email: Rep.BrianClem@state.or.us

Subject: OPPOSE HB. 3226

Dear Representative Clem:

I am writing to urge your unequivocal opposition to HB 3226 and your leadership to end the bill's track within the Committee for Agriculture & Natural Resources.

My wife and I own and actively manage 95 acres of family forestland located in Columbia & Washington Counties. HB 3226 would have a costly impact on our small forest operation, which would stifle our professional management to grow and harvest trees, as a valuable contribution to Oregon's rural economy.

HB 3226 is an unworkable bill that would turn Oregon's 45-year landmark Forest Practices Act (FPA) into a centralized-government forest prohibition. The bill would have a smothering impact on the growing and harvesting of Oregon's productive private forestlands—thereby creating unacceptable declines in the economic, social and environmental advantages of one of Oregon's top-3 traded good economic sectors. HB 3226 would harmfully scrap the now effective FPA; why toss-away a well-working forest policy?

Instead of the current effective FPA, the bill would create destructive prohibitory barriers to private forestland management, then overseen by a costly new state bureaucracy under Oregon Departments of Environmental Quality, Fish & Wildlife, and Forestry. The unacceptable bill would wrongly impose large new private forestland off-limits for streams and old trees, mandate years-long multi-agency permitting of all required harvest plans, and allow hundreds of local governments to issue their own forest regulations.

In recent years, I've appreciated your respect for forestry, and your reliable support of effective forest policy for Oregon's important forest sector. Thank you for your service to great Oregon forestry through your tenure in the Legislature.

Sincerely,

Rex D. Storm

Rex Storm, Certified Forester
President, New Meadows Growth LLC