



Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc. • P.O. Box 12339, Salem, OR 97309  
503/364-1330 • fax 503/364-0836 • email: rstorm@oregonloggers.org  
*"Representing the logging industry since 1969"*

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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.

Please accept these comments on behalf of Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL), representing over 1,000 member logging and allied forest management businesses working across Oregon – most of which are small-business independent contractors. Some of our members also own and manage their own private forestland property themselves. All of AOL member companies work under an effective cooperative stewardship atmosphere where landowner and contractor businesses alike have demonstrated a 96% willing compliance rate with the Forest Practices Act (FPA) statewide.

HB 3226 would have a costly impact on all forest management—but be especially damaging to small forest landowners and contract operations. HB 3226 would severely stifle 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 Storm, Certified Forester  
Forest Policy Manager  
Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.

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