

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

As a third generation Oregon Tree Farmer, I am against House Bill 3226.

While I am greatly concerned regarding our environment, my concerns based on 50 years of experience are regarding urban development, not our forest lands.

As a member of the Yamhill Small Woodlands Association since the 1970's and an owner of forest lands since that time, I feel that our management of Oregon's forests has greatly improved since the early days of the last century. We have an active, knowledgeable variety of people from promoting sustainable forest practices including:

Lumber Mills that want to buy timber from certified forest lands
Professional foresters working for timber companies and large private owners
Consulting forester working with smaller woodland owners
State Foresters implementing and administrating the Oregon Forest Practices Act
State Foresters providing educational services to small woodland owners
An Oregon Department of Forestry that provides fire protection
The Oregon Small Woodlands Association that sponsors monthly meetings and annual conventions and tours
Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the State providing services and funding for watershed and forestry project
Substantial interest and active owners setting up conservation easements on their property

Besides that, cross laminated lumber is quickly becoming accepted as a sustainable building material, and Oregon has some of the best timber growing areas in the world.

I am a Consulting Civil Engineer, Professional Land Surveyor and Water Right's Examiner, and I fully understand, based on my 49 years of experience in land development, that more regulations, more fees, more studies and more paperwork seldom, if ever, improve the quality of the project, in fact it generally results in higher costs for all, and the quality and availability suffers.

I employ a logger that works by himself. If I had to meet the requirements of the bill, it would not be practical or cost effective for me, or his other small woodland owners, to have him provide selective thinning, salvage logging or harvesting of small tracts.

Therefore, please do not pass this bill,

Thank you.

Leonard A. Rydell
Small Woodland Owner
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