

Candace Bonner, small woodland owner

RE: HB3226

March 30, 2017

Representative Brian Clem  
Chair, Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
900 Court St. NE, H-478  
Salem, OR 97301

Senator Michael Dembrow  
Chair, Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
900 Court St. NE, S-407  
Salem, OR 97301

Committee members:

I live on 109 forested acres in Corbett, Oregon, and I have had the privilege of serving on the NW Regional Forest Practices Committee (NWRFPCC) since 2011. I speak here as a small woodlands owner and do not represent the views of that committee.

My property is bordered by BLM, industrial timberland, and other small woodland owners. I have had the opportunity to watch, day in and day out, season to season, year to year, in all weathers, what happens to our streams and forests with harvest by industrial timber companies, by small woodland owners, and by federal foresters, and the great differences in results. Because of this, I have long been convinced that our Forest Practices rules need to be rewritten, especially in terms of better riparian protection. Our recent proposed riparian rules changes fall far short of what the best available science tells us we need.

There is always a fine line to walk between protecting resources needed by all Oregonians, and the rights of private land ownership. Oregon has shown by its land use laws, that we understand that there is need to protect some public values on private land. As we move into climate change, water will be above and beyond our most valuable and essential resource. Oregon will need our living and breathing and cooling forested lands to mitigate the weather changes that come with climate change. I am not

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sure this bill is the right way to reform the Forest Practices Act, but I strongly support reform, as irreversible changes in our forested lands and the waters of the state are progressing every day. And I invite any committee member who would like an on-the-ground look at real streams in real forests harvested in different ways, to come spend a morning walking through the woods with me.

I hope this current bill will continue to evolve, with more input from the timber companies, from the family forestry businesses, and from the small woodland owners like me and my neighbors, who live on our forested land and who are profoundly affected by the practices on the industrial lands bordering us or near us. The FPA needs reform, but we also need to carefully walk that fine line between private and public rights. Oregon needs a thriving, sustainable forestry industry.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



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