

Honorable Natural Resources Committee Members:

I have tied nearly all my retirement plan up in timber and timberland, because it seemed to be a fitting investment in terms of safety, income timing, and tax consequences. This bill would ruin much of that. I have avoided buying any timberland in California and Washington because these rules that were set up by city people to arrange the countryside to their liking, using government regulation and control of private property.

Oregon was the first, with the Forest Practices Act back in 1972. We have updated and imposed further restrictions during the 1990's. The Board of Forestry has decided to impose additional streamside setbacks in spite of incontrovertible scientific evidence to the contrary. But it was done in plain sight.

This kind of legislation favors the Boston investors and the Wall Street financial players. It discriminates terribly against small woodlands owners like myself.

Our woodlands are located in four separate counties and range in size from 40 acres to 240 acres. Complying with the rules imposed by this bill will cost us tens of thousands of dollars, not just once or twice, but four times.

I was born in Roseburg, and our slogan was "the timber capital of the nation". We have planted over 200,000 seedling trees and have always done our very best to operate conscientiously and in tune with Mother Nature for a sustainable program which will produce timber for centuries to come. That is true of most of our neighbors, and this bill does nothing but throw sand in the gears of production.

We have a real problem in this state in that it is not a Republic, rather it is run by socialists and we have what amounts to the urban voters imposing onerous regulations and requirements on rural people. The urban people really don't understand what they are doing, but it does feel good to them. We rural property owners forgive them for that, but hope that our Legislators are wise enough to make this a more republican sort of outcome, meaning that majority oppression (urban folks) is moderated by wise leadership YOU!

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