



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Forestry

State Forester's Office
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310-1336
503-945-7200
FAX 503-945-7212
www.oregon.gov/ODF



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

March 30, 2017

Representative Brian Clem, Chair
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Room 347, State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97310

RE: HB 3006 – Requiring Oregon-based contractors on wildfires

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Forestry appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony, regarding House Bill 3006. ODF has no position on the bill.

As written, HB 3006 requires the department to establish a list of Oregon-based contractors that are qualified to supply the department with wildfire fighting personnel, equipment and other resources. The bill also requires the department to rank the companies according to cost effectiveness and dispatch these companies prior to using federally contracted resources.

The department coordinates fire response with other state and federal partners and currently uses the geographically closest firefighting resources when responding to new fires, regardless of which entity has the fire suppression responsibility or contracted firefighting resource available. This "complete and coordinated" method has worked very well in keeping fires small and limiting fire costs. HB 3006 would change this method and require the department to use Oregon-based contractors as the highest priority. As written, HB 3006 would limit the department's ability to use the closest firefighting resources, which may increase the size of fires, exposure of firefighters to hazardous environments, costs of fires, forest resource losses, and the costs of the forest patrol assessment.

Representative Brian Clem, Chair
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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony with regard to HB 3006. If you have any questions, please contact me at 503-945-7204.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Doug Grafe', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Doug Grafe, Division Chief
Protection Division

cc: Jason Miner, Governor's Natural Resource Policy Manager
Lauri Aunan, Governor's Natural Resource Office
Tom Imeson, Board of Forestry, Chair
ODF Executive Team