



TO: MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

**FROM: JIM GEISINGER, EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT
ASSOCIATED OREGON LOGGERS**

DATE: MARCH 4, 2019

RE: OPPOSITION TO HB 2498

Chair Holvey and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Jim Geisinger, I am the Executive Vice-President of the Associated Oregon Loggers and I am here today to share our significant concerns with HB 2498 as it is currently written. In Oregon, nearly 800 primarily small, rural, family-owned logging companies perform the on-the-ground work of forest harvest, reforestation, tree improvement and firefighting across the 30 million acres of Oregon forestlands.

As currently written, HB 2498 would establish a new test for determining if a business qualifies as an independent contractor that could impact a significant portion of logging companies in Oregon. According to the bill, a business fails to meet the definition of an independent contractor if the work they perform is inside the usual course of business for the entity that hires them. This would have profound implications for logging companies throughout Oregon and would likely lead to a significant increase in litigation. Our 800 plus contractor members comply with all laws and regulations including workers compensation, paid sick leave, paid time off, etc. If passed, HB 2498 will disrupt decades of successful working relationships in the timber products industry.

We understand that there is a dash-1 amendment to the bill that is designed to address many of our concerns. We are in the process of reviewing the amendment and look forward to an opportunity to provide our thoughts and feedback. We appreciate the willingness of the Chair and members of the committee to consider and address our concerns with HB 2498.

Thank you for your consideration