

Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environment,

My grandpa, my dad, and my uncles started a small sawmill in our small Oregon town a few years before I was born. They supported our families in this way out of a desire to care for the land that we lived on and to use our natural resources in the best way possible. I am so proud of that. I cannot overstate the connection and respect we have for the place we live, or our desire to see it healthy and thriving for generations to come. I moved back to my small town, to raise my boys in the forest I grew up in.

I am proud to be an Oregonian; to be from a state that considers progressive measures to care for our people and our land, while also being rooted in the fact that our natural resources care for us, support us, provide livelihoods, build our homes.

If land owners are not allowed to manage their forest land (build roads to reach our trees, control invasive species), what will come of it? Will it sit, unmanaged, susceptible to fire? Will they need to sell the millions of acres of family owned Oregon forests to be used for some other purpose?

Frankly, there is no evidence that the proposed bill would actually protect our water quality and there is great evidence to suggest that it could harm the health of our forests, not to mention the economic impact on families, communities, and our state as a whole.

I am not a forester, personally. I work in social services. I serve vulnerable families in our town who are struggling with the lack of economic opportunity in our community. I cringe to think what will happen if we take even more of that away.

Part of my parents' retirement security is in the fact that some of their trees will be ready to harvest in 10 years when they will need some money to live. If they aren't allowed to cut down that patch of trees, on their land, even though it will harm no one and has been carefully planned to be healthy for the forest, their well-being will be hindered.

I could tell you dozens of stories of families, who have responsibly and ethically managed their own land and forests, who will be negatively impacted should this bill pass. It worries me to imagine what the tree covered hills I live in will look like in 20 years, with the land-owners ability to manage that land so hindered.

Please listen.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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