

Watts Remy

From: Kathleen Sullivan <ksullivan@co.clatsop.or.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 12:48 AM
To: SENR Exhibits
Cc: Rep Mitchell; Sen Roblan; Monica Steele; Sarah Nebeker; Kathleen Sullivan
Subject: Clatsop County Supports SB 893 Forest Transfer Bill

March 27, 2019

Re: Clatsop County Supports Oregon Senate Bill 893

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to support Oregon Senate Bill 893, tonight at their March 27th Board of Commissioners Meeting.

Clatsop County having one of the largest state forests, producing the most timber revenue of the Forest Trust Land Counties, supports this bill because it makes sense. This bill gives the Board of Forestry, the Counties, and even the Legislature another tool to work with in managing our public forests. It allows for checks and balances within the system. The State of Washington has been working with a similar plan for over 15 years for their 3 million plus acres of state forests.

Clatsop is a member of the Association of Oregon Counties and has a permanent seat on the Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee. Within these bodies, there will be disagreements from time to time. As an example, Clatsop County voted to opt out of the Linn County Lawsuit. Clatsop County believes that our state forests are important for revenue, habitat and public recreation. We acknowledge managing our state forest lands is a tremendous responsibility. We believe SB 893 adds to the options needed to successfully manage productive state forests while also contributing to county budgets.

Oregon Senate Bill 893 is endorsed by the Oregon Department of Forestry and major environmental groups like Wild Salmon Center, Trout Unlimited, and Oregon Outdoors, along with Backcountry Hunters and Anglers.

This bill is based on a successful history in the State of Washington, so there is evidence that this idea works. Clearly, SB 893 has been written after a great deal of collaboration between stakeholders. Because there is already latitude and choice written into this bill, Clatsop County trusts that any questions remaining could be resolved within a work session. Clatsop County Commissioners encourages the Committee to support Oregon Senate Bill 893. Help our state forests continue to be successful!

As Clatsop County Board of Commissioners' Vice Chair, and Clatsop's Representative to the Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee, I am sending this email tonight so that your committee will have the chance to know Clatsop's position in time for the Public Hearing at 1:00 PM, March 28, 2019.

Clatsop County will be happy to follow up with a more formal letter. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you might have. I regret that I am unable to attend the hearing in person.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Sullivan
Clatsop County Commissioner, District 4

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