

Council of Forest Trust Land Counties

Local Government Center
1201 Court Street NE, Ste 300
Salem, OR 97301

David Yamamoto – Chair Commissioner Tillamook County	John Sweet – Vice Chair Commissioner Coos County	Mary Faith Bell Commissioner Tillamook County	Kathleen Sullivan Commissioner Clatsop County	Jim Bernard Commissioner Clackamas County	Will Tucker Commissioner Linn County	Bob Main Commissioner Coos County
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April 2, 2019

Chair Dembrow,
Vice Chair Olsen, and Members of the
Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

For the record, I am Tillamook County Commissioner David Yamamoto, also Chair of the Council of Forest Trust Land Counties and Chair of the Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee.

The CFTLC counties are Tillamook, Clatsop, Clackamas, Columbia, Washington, Benton, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, Coos, Douglas, Josephine, Klamath and Lane.

I am here today to oppose SB 926.

Among the objectives of the CFTLC, two stand out: first, supporting sound, active management of county forest trust lands, which fulfills their primary purpose of forest production and their important contribution to long-term community sustainability; and second, protecting the flow of revenues from county forest trust lands for essential local public services.

SB 926 will take an important management tool away from the Department of Forestry. Without aerial application, control of invasive plants like Himalayan Blackberries, and invasive species like gypsy moths becomes a losing battle. During the early years of tree growth, competing vegetation can rob young trees of nutrients, water and sunshine. Taking this tool out of the toolbox will result in a reduction of timber growth, and an increase in management costs. Declining timber harvest will cause long term negative economic and social impacts for Forest Trust Lands Counties, schools, and special districts that depend on this revenue.

Revenue that is generated from harvest on the Forest Trust Lands supports important services at the county level. County general fund dollars are used to support Sheriff patrol, jail beds, criminal prosecution services, juvenile services, road maintenance, parks and recreation, which are just a few of the services provided to the County that are derived from timber revenue. These are important services that help rural communities have a measure of stability and sustainability.

Many people think that the timber revenue from Forest Trust Lands all stays with the County. In Tillamook County, we keep less than 17% of these revenues while the balance immediately gets sent to many State Timber Revenue Districts. These special districts include both the NW Regional and Willamette Education Service Districts; Tillamook Bay Community College; 4-H Extension Service; Ports of Tillamook Bay, Garibaldi, and Nehalem; Nehalem Bay Health District; North Coast Recreation District; Nehalem Bay Fire & Rescue; 911 Emergency Communication District; Garibaldi, Tillamook, and Nestucca Fire Districts; Tillamook Soil and Water Conservation District; Tillamook Transportation District; and all three (3) school districts, Tillamook, Nestucca, and Neah Kah Nie. As you can see, loss of timber harvest revenue would have a detrimental impact on our school districts and place additional strain on the state general fund.

It is important to note that small, rural counties rely on natural resource based jobs to provide family wage type income. In Tillamook County, the average private sector job pays roughly \$36,737 while average forestry and logging jobs pay \$50,680, wood products manufacturing jobs average \$52,918, and truck transportation pays \$46,767. Tillamook County has been very successful in growing a seasonal tourism industry but these leisure and hospitality jobs pay \$20,445...hardly a family wage income.

Over the last several decades, Tillamook County has taken the lead in making sure our natural resource based industries of timber production, dairy, and fishing are sustainable. In Tillamook County, when we speak of clean water, habitat restoration, and fish recovery, no Oregon County does this better than Tillamook County.

The proud, hard working people of Tillamook County are not looking for a hand out, nor even a hand up. We are used to working hard and taking care of ourselves. We do ask that unnecessary, unproven restrictions on our livelihoods be stopped. These types of forest management issues should be left to the professionals at the Department of Forestry. Please consider the long-term sustainability of our Forest Trust Lands, the services that are provided by rural counties and special districts, and the cost of sustaining our education system, and vote no on SB 926.

Sincerely,

David Yamamoto,
Commissioner Tillamook County
Chair, Council of Forest Trust Land Counties