



**Oregon State University**  
**College of Forestry**

**Office of the Dean**  
Oregon State University  
109 Richardson Hall  
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

**P** 541-737-1585  
forestry.oregonstate.edu

4/16/19

Honorable Nancy Nathanson, Chair  
House Committee on Revenue  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: House Bill 2073**

Dear Chair Nathanson and Members of the Committee:

As Interim Dean of the College of Forestry at Oregon State University, I appreciate the opportunity to offer this testimony in support of HB 2073 to renew the Forest Products Harvest Tax and to establish a tax rate that will support both the Oregon Forest Research Laboratory at Oregon State University and specific functions of the Oregon Department of Forestry for the next budget biennium.

**Overview of Research Funded at OSU by the Harvest Tax**

The Oregon Forest Research Lab at Oregon State University is Oregon's primary source for conducting and distributing scientific, technical, social, and economic analyses of forest resource issues. Our researchers work on nearly every aspect of forestry and related renewable materials, including tree genetics, forest soils, tree growth, forest watersheds, water quality, forest wildlife, forests and climate, forest management, forest recreation, timber harvesting and transportation, wood products manufacturing, wood products engineering, high-tech wood-based composites, uses for wood products in green buildings, bio-based renewable energy, forest policy and economics, and the human dimensions of forest resources.

All of these fields are fundamental to the mission of the College of Forestry at Oregon State University, and would not be possible without the contribution of Harvest Tax dollars that will flow to the College from this legislation. The Oregon Forest Research Lab is Oregon's research and development enterprise focused on forest resources, and is completely integrated with the College's teaching and outreach missions. Those three missions – teaching, research, and outreach – are how we meet our Land-Grant responsibilities to serve all Oregonians, both urban and rural.

I hear again and again just how important this work is to Oregon's timber and wood products industry, state and federal land managers, small landowners, and those who care deeply about healthy working landscapes in our state. We collaborate with all these interests to deliver knowledge and information on a range of issues vital to sustaining the competitiveness of this important sector of Oregon's economy in the context of growing ecological and social constraints and pressures.

## **Harvest Tax Dollars Secure Substantial Matching Funds Supporting the College of Forestry**

We are thankful for the timber industry's contribution of the Harvest Tax to Oregonians because it provides a foundation upon which we build funding support that is essential to ensuring that the College of Forestry can deliver the research and education programs I have described without relying entirely on general fund appropriations. Historically, in each biennium, the collective interests work with the Legislature to attempt to set a Harvest Tax rate so that the tax revenue collected in the next biennium will continue to provide a consistent revenue stream to the College. In the current 2017 to 2019 budget biennium, 15% of the College of Forestry budget comes from education and general funds appropriation, 16% comes from Statewide Public Service program funds, and 10 % comes from Harvest Tax dollars authorized based on projected harvest volumes. The remainder of our budget then comes from multiple funding sources such as private donations, grants, and contracted work by our faculty. (See attachment to this testimony.)

Stated a different way, in each and every biennium since the inception of the Harvest Tax, the general fund dollars allocated to the College are first matched by the Harvest Tax contribution from industry, and then from other external fund sources that the College is able to secure. In the current biennium, that has meant Statewide program dollars appropriated by the Legislature have been matched at a ratio of nearly 1.6\_ to 1 with the Harvest Tax dollars to support all aspects of our work just as education general fund appropriations do. This leverage is possible only because of this unique funding partnership supporting College operations that has been put in place in cooperation with the Legislature, Oregon's timber industry, and the Oregon Department of Forestry.

### **Expression of Support for HB 2073**

The Oregon State University College of Forestry and Forest Research Lab support HB 2073 and welcome the opportunity to work with the Legislative Assembly as the revenue and budget processes move forward. With this in mind we support moving HB 2073 from Revenue to Ways and Means without recommendation.

## **Harvest Tax Dollars Secure Substantial Matching Funds Supporting the College of Forestry**

I will be pleased to answer any questions that may arise as this legislation is considered. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



Anthony S. Davis, PhD  
Interim Dean  
Oregon State University

Enclosure

c: Jock Mills, Director, OSU Government Relations  
Peter Daugherty, State Forester

**Attachment 1: Distribution of OSU College of Forestry Expenditures in FY 17-19 by Source**

