

To: House Rules Committee
Re: Support for HB 4168 from Green Diamond Resource Company

I write today in support of HB 4168, relating to forestry pesticide use and notification.

Green Diamond Resource Company is a privately held forest products company which owns and manages 1.8 million acres of working forest land in the US West and South. In Oregon, we own some 660,000 acres. Most of that is located in Klamath, Lake and Jackson Counties, with scattered parcels in Wallowa, Union and Umatilla Counties.

Our company dates back to 1890 and we are still managing lands originally logged by Sol Simpson, founder. Simply put, we know something about stewardship. In Washington and California, we operate under federal Habitat Conservation Plans. In Oregon, we signed the first Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the fisher, and we are currently working on a Safe Harbor Agreement for the bull trout on our Southern Oregon lands.

Although we were not signatories to the recent MOU between forest products companies and environmental interests, we wholeheartedly agree with the approach, including the above-mentioned legislation on pesticide use and notification. Because our Oregon timberlands are located in dryer regions, we do not often need to use chemicals to ensure successful reforestation. Yet, after the Oregon Gulch fire devastated some 15,000 acres of our forest land in 2014, reforestation proved impossible without the aid of forest chemicals. Prudently and carefully applied by licensed applicators as is required by law, such chemicals are critical to forest management. The elements of HB 4168 provide for added safety and transparency in the use of pesticides.

Thank you for your attention to this important piece of legislation, and for the opportunity to voice our support.

Andy Elsbree
Vice President and General Manager
Oregon Operations
Green Diamond Resource Company