

I have owned and managed our 120-acre family tree farm near Sandy, Oregon for half a century. It is the first small woodland in the nation to be certified for carbon sequestration under the State of California's climate initiative. Recently I have encouraged other small woodland owners to join our families' efforts. Our family tree farm has also produced over 2.6 million board feet of timber over the past 60 years, yet now has over 3.2 million board feet of timber ranging from six to 120 years of age standing on the property.

In 1992, after winning a state-wide award for the management of our family tree farm, I was appointed to the Northwest Forest Practices Committee where I have volunteered for the past 29 years. During that time, as an active member of that committee, I have helped review, revise and update Oregon's forest practices act while annually selecting and awarding forest operators who stand out for their high standards meeting or exceeding those guidelines.

My goal has been to guarantee that Oregon's forest practices acts meet the highest standards set by scientific research while writing laws that are clear and easy to understand by our state's small woodland owners. In working with forest professionals who also serve on the committee I have learned to recognize their expertise as knowledgeable forest graduates from our state universities. They maintain a keen interest in balancing out the realities of science with producing high quality, marketable products from Oregon's forests. Whether dealing with riparian, landslide, or reforestation issues to help protect our livelihood and lands, our mutual goal is to help provide the best field guidance to help sustain our public and private lands.

To have all our state forestry guidance coming from bureaucratic professionals overseen by a board of forestry composed those without an economic investment in the timber industry is a path to corruption, incompetence and the eventual destruction of Oregon's forests. We need continued leadership by those who work in the woods and manage our timberlands by maintaining Forest Practices committees and Board of Forestry to help manage Oregon's timberlands.

I have just spent the past three weeks cleaning up blowdown on our 120-acre family tree farm from the same unprecedented windstorm that swept Western Oregon with megafires this past September. Three weeks of hard work with a chainsaw and farm tractor helped clean up the shattered timber that, if left on the ground, could prove a potential seedbed for future disease outbreaks and /or wildfires.

Cleaning up this blowdown also protects the remaining standing trees for continued carbon sequestration which currently brings in an annual income of about \$10,000 a year. This (hopefully) unusual one-time windfall of broken trees yielded three log truck loads of timber and five cords of firewood, valued at about \$5,000 after timber taxes and hauling costs.

Under the proposed bill, unless I was one of two of the five members earning less than \$1,000 in five years from my timberlands, I would be prohibited to serve on the Board of Forestry. This is absurd! We need people who have a hands-on investment in forestry to help manage Oregon's forests. Active management can preserve Oregon's forests to help fight rapid climate change. Closing them down with blind bureaucracies and simple misguided oversight as proposed in this bill is a recipe for disaster. I hope you understand this and toss this bill out.

Thank you
Jon Stewart