

May 10, 2021

House Revenue Committee

RE: HB 2357

Chair Representative Nathanson, Vice Chairs Representatives Pham and Reschke and members of the committee, my name is Scott Hayes.

My wife and I live on our 40-acre woodland in Washington County, a few miles west of Banks. Our forest has been managed under a management plan certified by the American Tree Farm System since 1996.

I'm the chair of the Oregon Tree Farm System. Oregon has 1,311 American Tree Farm System certified woodlands that cover over 722,000 acres. We have a dedicated group of over 50 volunteer foresters who are trained to help family landowners create management plans that meet their conservation and management goals, and that meet American Tree Farm System certification standards.

I'm opposed to House Bill 2357.

The policies it establishes in Section 1 seem to duplicate some of those embodied in the 1971 Forest Practices Act and its administrative rules. What concerns me is that the law creates a new Oregon Department of Forestry education mission directed at family forest landowners, and to pay for this new mission, landowners like myself will be taxed on the trees we harvest. From my experience the landowner education outreach and programs of both OFRI and OSU Forestry Extension already provide great landowner education. I've benefited from their efforts. My neighbors have benefited from them.

Last Monday I met with Oregon Department of Forestry Stewardship Forester Eric Jacobs to review a shelterwood harvest we plan for this summer. This on-ground technical forestry

advice is vital for many landowners who need assistance managing their land and, when a harvest is planned, to receive guidance on particular forest practices. This is what ODF does best.

If the policy of HB 2357 is to encourage good forest management and to promote conservation practices that result in measurable impacts across the landscape, I believe the best way to meet that public policy is to help small woodland owners create a certified forest management plan.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Scott Hayes

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