

Testimony on Senate Bill 5518

Chairs Reardon and Taylor and members of the Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

My name is Milton I. Moran Jr., President of Cascade Timber Consulting, Inc., (CTC), located in Sweet Home, Oregon. We manage the Hill Timber Limited Partnership lands, all in Linn County.

We have a 145,000 Acre Tree Farm.

I Live in the Sweet Home area and a lifelong Oregonian raised in Linn County.

I have worked on this tree farm for the Hill family for nearly 48 years, the same owner since 1916 and held in a timber trust since 1917.

I'm concerned about SB 5518, the Oregon Department of Forestry Budget.

I'm strongly opposed to the language in the current budget that changes the funding for Administrative Costs for Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) from 100% General Fund to a 50-50 split between landowners and the General Fund. This eliminates the long time recognition that private landowners provide millions of dollars every year through In Kind Resources.

In Kind Resources include trained and equipped personnel, as well as fire trucks, water tenders, heavy equipment and well supplied Fire Caches of hose, pumps and tools. We maintain Water sources in the forms of pump chances and Heli-Ponds. Our roads systems are maintained to gain access to our lands and those of our neighbors, including federal forest lands. We have our own communications systems including radios with all field personnel and radio repeaters. We are part of the successful Complete and Coordinate Fire Fighting System in Oregon. We work with ODF, rural fire departments, forest contractors, and our neighbors to keep fires small. Private Forest Landowners In Kind annual contribution is estimated to be worth \$14.5 million, and is unique to Oregon.

The Labor Day fires brought the private landowners and forest operators to the forefront of firefighting as ODF and the federal agencies were not able to do it alone. The private sector provided over 350 pieces of fire equipment and over 750 trained personnel that were ready to go at the landowners expense. CTC provided three Local Resource Bosses to the Holiday Farm Fire Management Team, as well as other foresters and equipment operators to manage and construct fire lines on that fire as well as support initial attack on multiple fire starts in the South Cascade District. Many times our folks managed and fought these fires on our own as the rural departments and ODF were tied up on other incidents. We attacked and stopped all these fires before they became large, saving homes, lives and hundreds, if not thousands of acres of timberland. SB 5518, with this fund shift, ignores these contributions to the fire fighting system. Not only that, but now this language will be adding significant costs to our fire assessments and we get nothing for that in exchange, no added firefighting resources. This is WRONG!!

The firefighting workload does not come from forest landowners, it comes from the general public. 93% of Oregon's fires are human caused. These fires are fought by ODF and private forest landowners. It is not only appropriate, but a necessity that the General Fund pickup the Administrative Pro-Rate costs and recognize the private sectors In Kind Contribution as a real cost savings to the General Fund. These contributions have been recognized as significant to the State of Oregon in the past.

I have always supported the Oregon Department of Forestry's Budget and have testified in person several times before the Oregon Legislature.

I oppose this Fund Shift to a 50-50 split of the Administrative Pro-Rate between the General Fund and Private Forest Landowners.

Your careful considerations are greatly appreciated.

Thank You for your service to Oregon.

Milton I. Moran Jr., President
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