

I have been actively involved with forest and agriculture production my entire life. I have served in the Oregon legislature for 8 years (4 in the house and 4 in the senate). My wife Lola and I presently own 80 acres of timber land and 5 acres of Christmas trees. I strongly urge you to reject HB 2379. This bill would disrupt the funding of several very important organizations that are critical to the timber industry at a time when we need to be focusing on reducing wild fires and replanting thousands acres of last years wildfires. In Coos county we are struggling with the impact of the drought on recent reproduction plantings. The forest industry is very important to rural communities. I urge the legislature to not approve HB 2379 which would disrupt funding for several organizations supporting the timber industry. Thankyou for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB2379.

Ken Messerle