

THE ELLIOTT STATE RESEARCH FOREST

January 20, 2022

RE: Elliott State Research Forest Advisory Committee's support for SB 1546 -1

Honorable members of the Oregon Legislature,

As members of the Elliott State Research Forest Advisory Committee we are writing to respectfully urge passage of Senate Bill 1546-1, which creates the Elliott State Research Forest, and for you to approve funding to decouple the forest from the Common School Fund.

For the past three years we have been the pathfinders involved in the complicated, delicate and difficult process of both envisioning and designing an Elliott State Research Forest. To be honest, it has not been an easy process. We've argued and then compromised. We've discussed ideas that at first seemed just right, only to see them fall apart. We've been both cautious and candid with criticisms and concerns. We've been open-minded and willing to consider new ideas. We've been combative and collaborative. Through it all, we've learned to trust one another. As well, we never lost sight of the forest for the trees in remembering our task: to create an exceptional, sustainable, publicly owned research forest focused on science, conservation, and best-forestry practices.

As individuals and organizations, we represent timber interests and conservation groups; recreational concerns and tribal entities; counties and communities; school children, school boards and a great university. By focus, we represent Oregon.

None of us believe what we've done is perfect. None of us got everything we wished. All of us gave up something to get here.

Because of all that, not in spite of it, we believe that we've been successful. We believe the legislation before you establishing the Elliott State Research Forest keeps the forest publicly owned, achieves important conservation outcomes, lays the foundation for world-class research, supports rural economic vitality and generates the revenue to be self-sustaining.

After nearly three years of work, there now exists the opportunity to transcend decades of conflict and advance the Elliott into a new era of collaboration. This is an historic moment which should not be missed.

The signatures below represent ALL of us, as members of the ESRF Advisory Committee. We ask that you trust the work we've done, the work we are rightly proud of. We are unanimous in urging the passage of SB 1546-1 establishing the Elliott State Research Forest.

Sincerely,

Member Asha Aiello, Oregon Outdoor Council
Member Colin Beck, Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
Member Paul Beck, Douglas Timber Operators
Member Melissa Cribbins, Coos County
Member Tom DeLuca, Oregon State University
Member Eric Farm, Farm Unlimited
Member Geoff Huntington, Oregon Department of State Lands
Member Michael Kennedy, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Member Michael Langley, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
Member Ken McCall, Oregon Hunter's Association
Member Mary Paulson, Oregon School Boards Association
Member Bob Sallinger, The Audubon Society of Portland
Member Mark Stern, The Nature Conservancy (retired)
Member Keith Tymchuk, Other/Citizen At large
Member Bob Van Dyk, Wild Salmon Center

Cc: The Honorable Kate Brown, Governor
The Honorable Tobias Read, Treasurer
The Honorable Shemia Fagan, Secretary of State
Dept. of State Lands Director Vicki Walker (vicki.walker@dsl.oregon.gov)
Dean Tom DeLuca, Head of OSU Dept. of Forestry (tom.deluca@oregonstate.edu)
Jason Miner, Governor's Natural Resources Policy Director (jason.miner@oregon.gov)
Molly Woon, Secretary of State's Policy Advisor (molly.woon@oregon.gov)
Ryan Mann, State Treasurer's Policy Advisor (ryan.mann@ost.state.or.us)