

Submitter: Garrett Kleiner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Measure: SB 1501/1502

Dear Chair Golden and members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee:

I am a 3rd generation forester living in Coos County. The currently proposed Private Forest Accord (PFA) and associated SB 1501 & 1502 are an ill-fated approach to overburdening small forest landowners with a disproportionate amount of regulation and upfront cost. The new regulations are simply a take of managed timber from smaller landowners. These are landowners that cannot simply move boundaries to maintain wood/cash flow off their property nor would they want to. These landowners are in it for the true long-term not simply one rotation and to sell then buy somewhere else. The promise of tax relief is a carrot on a stick that comes with the upfront cost of needing a timber cruise, appraisal and a road inventory with the possibility of thousands of dollars of upfront cost to perform road work on roads that an average person might not even recognize if they walked across them. Most small landowners are not cash rich people. This upfront cost could be enough to motivate them to sell their family forest and when they do it will be out of State developers and investment groups that will be there to pick up the pieces. All one has to do is look South to California and you will see what was once family forest lands now broken down into small parcels containing developments or marijuana grows. If water quality is the true goal of these regulations then leave family forest lands out of it as they are already supplying some of the cleanest and coldest drinking water in the State.

At the very least family forest landowners should be removed from this process until they can fully digest the impacts of what is being proposed. The typical response I get when I have requested this is that small family forest owners had a seat at the table but the truth is that even if they were a member of Oregon Small Woodland Association (OSWA) they were not well informed if at all. I would know, I am on the board of the Coos-Curry chapter and the only real information we have is what I have gathered via the internet and through forestry contacts at work. If this process is truly so good for everyone then why so cloak and dagger? Why can't we have time to review the legislation, measure its true impacts to family forest owners and have some voices heard?

I know this process seems to be an unstoppable force but at this time all I ask is that family forest lands be given time to properly digest the information they were not privileged to throughout this closed door process.

Respectfully,

Garrett Kleiner

