

February 3, 2022

Chair Jeff Golden
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Submitted Electronically via OLIS

Re: Rayonier Supports SB 1501 and SB 1502

Chair Golden and members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Adrian Miller, and I am the Director of Public Affairs for Rayonier. I also had the opportunity to represent the timber industry signatories of the Private Forest Accord in the negotiations.

I am here to testify in support of both SB 1501 and SB 1502, the enabling legislation for the Private Forest Accord as well as the legislation that establishes a tax credit for small forest landowners.

Rayonier was established in 1926 in Shelton Washington. Over the years we transitioned from an integrated pulp and paper company to our current organization which is solely focused on sustainably growing, harvesting, and planting trees. We manage over 2.7 million acres in three geographies, the Pacific Northwest, the US South, and in New Zealand. We currently own 60,000 acres in Oregon. We manage our forests for the long term, and we still own many of the lands we first acquired in 1938.

While our footprint is small compared to many of our competitors in Oregon, we see a great deal of opportunity for growth in this state. First of all, there is no better place to grow trees for structural lumber anywhere in the world. The climate and soils make this a uniquely productive place to grow trees. Second, there are diverse markets for both logs as well as other residuals from the logging and manufacturing process. Most importantly, there is a skilled and dedicated workforce throughout the entire supply chain.

However, the regulatory environment in this state is challenging in its unpredictability. The Private Forest Accord does many things that will make the regulatory environment more stable, benefiting all timberland owners, loggers, manufacturers, rural communities and all Oregonians.

This does not come without cost, and private forestland owners are making a significant investment through agreeing to encumber land to gain this regulatory certainty. When weighing the costs of this compromise against other likely outcomes, we predicted that absent the Private Forest Accord, we would be facing similar, if not more significant costs, without any benefit of future certainty.

Rayonier is a business that focuses on a strategy that looks out decades, not financial quarters, and we believe this investment will pay off and help us grow not just our business, but the entire sector.

All successful businesses have to evolve to respond to changing conditions whether they are driven by economic change, technological change, or even societal change. We have been in this business for nearly a century and this legislation is one component of the evolution of our businesses that will help us ensure that we can continue to grow for centuries to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Miller', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Adrian Miller
Director of Public Affairs

