



Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery
February 3, 2022

Mike Warjone, President, US Forestry at Port Blakely
Speaking in favor of SB 1501 & SB1502

Good afternoon, Chairman Golden and members of the committee. I'm Mike Warjone, President of US Forestry at Port Blakely. We are a 5th generation family-owned company that grows and markets renewable forest products in Oregon, Washington, and New Zealand. I am here today to speak in support of SB 1501 & 1502.

As a family-owned company that has been in business for more than 150 years, we only know how to take a generational view when it comes to managing our forests. Every day my team makes decisions that impact the person who will have their job in 50 years. Right now, we are harvesting trees my dad planted in Molalla around the time I was born.

Port Blakely signed the Memo of Understanding that led to the historic agreement that has led to this legislation and a sustainable path forward for Oregon's forestry future. We found ourselves with a straightforward choice: either bring people together, put the issues on the table, and find agreement where possible or give up on our forests. Luckily, with the support and drive of Governor Brown, and the commitment of many folks across our industry and in the conservation community, we can ensure not only the sustainability of our industry and rural communities but our forests and the ecosystems they support.

Taking this long-term approach is why in 2020, Port Blakely entered into the largest forestry Stewardship Agreement in Oregon's history to protect not only our business but also the habitat and watersheds our 30,000-acre forest in Clackamas County support.

There will continue to be conflicting environmental, financial, social, and political considerations in how we manage Oregon forests. This is an imperfect process, and we will disagree on some of the details. But this bill gives us a way we can work together to respond to the climate crisis, to protect species that are or may become threatened or endangered, to invest in the people and communities that support the long-term sustainability of our forests and our industry.

If you go on Google Earth, you can see what Oregon's forests looked like from space in the past, since the 1990's. I wish there was a future button, to show you the positive impact these bills can have. I believe this is how we secure a healthy environment and forest industry in Oregon for the next 100 years. And the person who has my job in 2072 will be amazed to see how much we've accomplished.

Thank you.