

Submitter: Fred Messerle

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Measure: SB1502

February 4, 2022,

To: Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery Committee

Re: SB 1501, SB 1502

Our family has been fortunate to be able to make a living for the past one hundred and seventy years from the abundant natural resources available to us in Southwest Oregon. We manage our timber land on a sustainable basis and take great pride in our good stewardship.

As presented, SB 1501, SB 1502, and HB 4055 will have a severe negative impact on our forest and business operations and we oppose passage of these bills.

With only two days to evaluate the draft Private Forest Accord Report and amendments it is impossible to evaluate the impact on our operation or the effects for the next fifty years. Additionally, we have had no opportunity for input into the process nor has there been any feedback from the forest caucus including OSWA. Would anyone be able successfully apply for a loan, operate a business, or maintain their household with no details or time for evaluation? It is a big stretch to expect support from the SFO community when there has been no transparency or inclusion in the process.

We also take issue with the restrictions on compensation because of land use regulation. The proposed subsidies and tax credits are not well defined or authorized. In general, SFO's have an income problem not a tax problem.

The HCP is a trojan horse with no obligation from the federal agencies to accept it or demand even further restrictions or commitments.

Is more bureaucracy and process complexity really a solution when ODF and ODF&W can't keep up under present conditions? Additionally, where is the effort to improve management of state and federal lands so we are not dealing with the effects of devastating fires?

At a minimum we would request the full implementation of the SFO regulations be delayed until at least 2026 and that more direct representation from the SFO community be added to the process.

Regards,

Fred R. Messerle
Coos Bay, Oregon