

Submitter: Susan Northern

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Measure: SB1534

The beautiful and diverse forests of Oregon are burning due to ongoing mismanagement. In places fires have burned so intensely the ground is now sterile. Smoke from the fires and particulates in the air hang over our state for months making our environment and breathing unhealthy. Travel our state as we have; from corner to corner, top to bottom. We have seen devastating forest lands and every year more go up in smoke. The last 2 years alone have been horrendous and we have seen it first hand. The loss of wildlife, watersheds, grazing, human life and property are heartbreaking and the cost of fighting the fires - not just monetary but putting so many lives at risk is reprehensible. Especially when we can be proactive in at least reducing the fire risk. The timber industry and others who have a sincere desire to make our forests healthier can work together cooperatively and accomplish what must be done. Passing SB 1534 won't make that happen. For those of you who vote on this bill, take the time to actually visit the forests- the burned, the over-grown unmanaged, the forests that have been actively managed. See the difference firsthand. Please. Respectfully, Susan & Scott