

Submitter: Nancy Hathaway

On Behalf Of: Oregon Small Woodlands Association

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure: HB3019

Opposing HB 3019

I am a small woodland owner managing about 900 acres in 5 different counties. I use and appreciate the publications that OFRI puts out. The information is science based. I find their TV ads geared to the general public are tasteful and accurate.

Regarding HB 3019. This appears to be a money grab while ostensibly purporting to "improve" OFRI. We timber growers have voluntarily offered to increase the amount of harvest tax we pay time after time. This money is basically ours. If the legislature wanted to have OFRI become like all the other commodity commissions, then that is how they would have organized it.

All of the other commodity commissions represent food and it's easy for people to connect the dots between growers and the products they buy in grocery stores.

Somehow the fact that people live in wood houses with wood furniture doesn't connect them to forests and the products forests provide.

The anti-forestry advocates have screamed louder and louder in promoting the idea that we must have our water and wildlife protected. We already have very clean water...meaning it is already protected. Wildlife are already doing fine, but with the increasing cougar population (primary predators of deer and elk) there should be a focus on controlling cougars.

The emotional attack on forestry makes it evident that some organization needs to provide science based information to the public. And OFRI has done an excellent job at that.

Maybe we need to promote eating wood...wood that help? (Actually, the wood cellulose in ice cream helps to keep its shape. So we are eating wood!)

This is a self-serving bill for someone else's agenda, but does no good for timber growers.

Nancy Hathaway
Corvallis, OR