

Submitter: Michael Barnes

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: HB3019

My name is Michael Barnes. I am a family forest owner and reside on our family forest near Newberg Oregon. I am also a consulting forester and manage other family forest properties in 5 counties in NW Oregon.

Most of the family forest owner I work with do not reside on their ownerships and are not professionally connected to the forest products industry. They have come to rely on the educational benefits provided in part by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI). OFRI is fully funded by a tax on harvests assessed as a part of the Forest Products Harvest Tax. No general fund dollars support OFRI.

The changes included in the proposed legislation will erode the opportunity for OFRI to support all family forest owners in Oregon. This educational element will be more important during the next few years as the Private Forest Accord is implemented.

These changes are not beneficial or needed and this legislation will have a negative impact on the family forest sector. I oppose HB 3019.

Michael Barnes

Newberg OR