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House Committee on Judiciary

Chair Kropf, Vice-chairs Andersen and Wallan, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Tiffany Roddy and I am Manager of Government Affairs at Roseburg Forest Products, a family owned company that started here in Oregon in 1936. I am writing today to testify in support of SB 864.

Prior to my current role, I worked as a Forester here in Oregon for well over a decade. In fact, during the 2020 Labor Day fires, I was a Forester at Roseburg and was involved with initial attack firefighting efforts on the Archie Creek Fire, on both our lands and those of our neighbors. But you've heard about the Labor Day fire efforts in other testimony, so I want to focus on another area that this bill will help address.

Throughout my career as a Forester, I've encountered – and personally put out – many fires while they were small, on both lands that I was responsible for managing, as well as those of neighbors. In the summer, dry lightning storms often track over our lands with tens to hundreds of strikes, all of which have the potential to start fires. And when they do, there are not nearly enough firefighters on staff at the state (ODF) to check every one in a timely manner. So we send our foresters out to check on these, and if they find small fires where the strikes are, they put them out. These strikes don't follow property lines.

We also encounter human-caused fires, and with the nature of where our foresters work, we're often the first ones on scene, with firefighting resources potentially over an hour away. The right thing to do in these situations is to put the fire out when it's spotted, no matter what.

Without passage of this bill, I would have to tell our foresters that it wouldn't be wise to help put out fires on neighboring lands while they are small, because there could be potential for liability. That would make us a bad neighbor, and be the complete opposite of doing the right thing. I ask that you support this bill and give our industry parity with agricultural and rangelands in regards to being Good Samaritans when fighting fires.

Thank you for your time,

Tiffany Roddy

Tiffany Roddy
Manager of Government Affairs
Roseburg Forest Products