From:	Bender Steve
To:	Koss Tiffany
Subject:	FW: Forest Collaborative Funding
Date:	Thursday, March 14, 2013 9:09:07 AM

Testimony received on OBDD budget request.

From: Thomas Imeson [mailto:tomimeson@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2013 3:12 AM
To: REP Jenson; REP Read; REP McKeown; Betsy Johnson; SEN Hansell; SEN Shields
Cc: DECKER Doug S; BROWNSCOMBE Brett * GOV
Subject: Forest Collaborative Funding

I am contacting you to urge your support for the Governor's initiative to increase the pace and scale of management on fire-prone federal forests. The health and sound stewardship of these lands are critical to our state's current and future well-being. Our economy relies on these lands for family-wage jobs -- particularly in our rural communities where jobs are becoming increasingly scarce. These lands also provide important ecosystem services like clean water and carbon storage. biodiversity, and habitat for a multitude of animal and plant species. Lack of trust, conflict, and declining federal funding has reduced active management on federal lands and negatively affected our ability to provide all of these resources.

In recent years, collaboration has emerged as an effective way to rebuild trust and foster local agreement about how to manage federal forests. In Oregon, there are not at least 20 community-based collaboratives working to inform sustainable forest management on public lands (all 11 national forests in Oregon) by ensuring local resources are managed in concert with community values. However, the pace and scale of his work is severely limited by a lack of resources. To accomplish his goal the Governor's initiative will:

- create a state liaison position to act as the main point of contact and coordination with USA Forest Service, communicate with and support forest collaborative groups, and hold them accountable for the use of any state funds

- fund contracts with private sector experts to provide science support and technical assistance to collaborative groups for facilitation and project management services, data collection, and appropriate monitoring of ecological, social and economic impacts.

` create a small grant fund focused on shoring up the capacity of collaborative groups to advance meaningful work at landscape scale, and

- pilot test a new business model that is contingent upon creating a partnership approach with the US Forest Service that leads to meaningful changes in the status quo on issues like planning costs and efficiencies.

This initiative creates a bold new role for the State of Oregon, but without trying bold new initiatives, we will remain gridlocked and unable to solve our forest problems. If successful, this initiative will accelerate the pace and scale of science-based treatments that restore ecological function and reduce fire risk while producing forest-related jobs, and commercial wood products.

Thank you for your consideration of these views.

Tom Imeson
Chair
Oregon Board of Forestry