

Thank you for this bill. Thank you for this chance to express what changes I feel are needed in the way we treat our forests. I am very hopeful that we are taking an honest look at how logging is done in Oregon. I think there is a lot of work to do but this bill is a great start. I have kept a close eye on forest management for several years and cannot help but feel discouraged at the way I see things going.

I am really concerned about the sheer magnitude of clearcutting going on. I don't see how there is any way it can be sustainable at the rate it is happening. I personally don't agree with clearcutting anything anywhere, but I have looked at the logging side of things and I can understand in some cases how clear cutting 20 acres or so could be beneficial. But we have several hundred acres of land that is clear cut at any one time. Entire mountainsides are barren, complete ecosystems are lost. On a drive to the coasts from Eugene, Roseburg or Corvallis, clear cuts go on and on for miles. I'm sorry but this is completely unacceptable and totally irresponsible. We need trees more than ever right now yet we are cutting them down faster than they can be replaced.

The time is way overdue for industry to start paying their fair share and to start looking at the bigger picture. In these times of climate uncertainty and worldwide environmental degradation, "business as usual" just doesn't cut it. The impact of logging is far reaching, it affects everyone. Not just us here in Oregon, but the entire planet. Any decision to cut a tree down should be weighted with a huge sense of responsibility and an awareness of the consequences. The health of entire communities, species of wildlife, ecosystems, water, air—is all in the hands of those who work the forests. Yet I have only seen a forest's value based on economics. The only way we have to quantify its worth is how much money it will bring so unfortunately it seems the only current way to bring about change is through financial means like taxes.

I have read the testimony submitted so far, most of those opposed to this bill seem to be smaller, family owned operations. I hope this bill can be crafted so as not to put them out of business if they are indeed operating sustainably (i.e. promoting a diversity of trees/flora; ensuring habitat for wildlife, selectively harvesting, using alternatives to chemicals as much as possible, and so forth). I interpret the bill to target large, multi-million, multinational corporations. Industrial logging must be reined in and transitioned from exploitative methods (unsustainable rates of harvest, short rotations, mechanization, and log exports) to regenerative forestry. The high level of automation and corporate tax favors eliminate jobs and destabilize rural communities. Oregon's sustainable forestry community faces steep competition from international investment companies that own vast tracts of forest and manage their lands for short-term returns to investors rather than long-term prosperity for Oregonians.

Let's utilize Oregon's greatest asset, the forests, to benefit everyone.

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