

Council of Forest Trust Land Counties

Local Government Center
1201 Court Street NE, Ste 300
Salem, OR 97301

David Yamamoto – Chair Commissioner Tillamook County	John Sweet – Vice Chair Commissioner Coos County	Mary Faith Bell Commissioner Tillamook County	Kathleen Sullivan Commissioner Clatsop County	Jim Bernard Commissioner Washington County	Will Tucker Commissioner Linn County	Bob Main Commissioner Coos County
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April 2, 2019

Chair Dembrow,
Vice Chair Olsen, and Members of the
Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources

For the record, I am Coos County Commissioner John Sweet, Vice Chair of the Council of Forest Trust Land Counties.

I am here today also in opposition to SB 931.

You have heard from Commissioner Yamamoto about how important revenue from the harvest of timber on Forest Trust Lands is to county services, special districts, and our schools.

For Oregon’s rural counties, the strength of our economies and our social fabric are linked to the vibrancy of our natural resource employment base. Jobs in the timber industry are some of our best jobs. They combine high wages with full benefits. It is important for economic and social stability in our counties to protect these valuable jobs.

Every year, the Oregon Employment Department reports on wages paid by industry. There are about 60,000 jobs in the forest sector, and most of them are on the west side of the state. You have before you a snapshot for 2017, the last full year that data is available, showing wages that are paid in three job classifications: forestry and logging, wood products manufacturing, and truck transportation.

You may wonder about truck transportation. Hauling logs to mills and building materials to markets is a truck intensive undertaking.

The chart will show you Oregon-wide, and for rural counties, the average wage of all private sector jobs, compared to jobs in forestry & logging, wood products manufacturing, and trucking. You can see that these jobs pay close to the state average wage, and that they pay substantially above the average wage in our rural counties. For comparison, jobs in leisure and hospitality (the tourism industry), pay about half the annual wage of forest products jobs, and rank substantially below the county’s average wage.

Rural Oregon counties have high rates of poverty. In Coos County, for example, 48% of our students are on free and reduced-price school lunches. We have high rates of child abuse, spousal abuse, and drug abuse.

Jobs in the forest products sector help to strengthen the social fabric of our communities. We need more of these jobs, and we need to continue to grow and harvest trees for the benefit of our communities and our families.

Thank you.

Annual Average Wage 2017					
	Total Private Sector Average	Forestry & Logging Average	Wood Products Manufacturing Average	Truck Transportation Average	Leisure & Hospitality Average
Oregon	\$50,483	\$51,264	\$49,430	\$50,890	\$21,379
Benton	\$46,454	\$54,120	\$62,503	\$35,749	\$16,824
Clackamas	\$51,918	\$51,310	\$46,391	\$51,091	\$20,215
Clatsop	\$35,757	\$52,951	\$60,817	\$47,233	\$21,691
Columbia	\$37,332	\$52,343	\$44,004	\$58,989	\$16,659
Curry	\$31,879	\$42,571	\$51,037	\$47,258	\$17,190
Deschutes	\$43,249	\$50,477	\$44,135	\$49,573	\$21,341
Douglas	\$38,140	\$45,473	\$51,030	\$47,962	\$16,818
Jackson	\$40,206	\$44,918	\$47,523	\$49,476	\$19,326
Josephine	\$34,750	\$59,697	\$39,295	\$36,329	\$18,102
Klamath	\$36,104	\$44,965	\$51,727	\$38,646	\$17,529
Lane	\$41,025	\$50,850	\$54,795	\$52,384	\$17,679
Lincoln	\$33,756	\$50,080	\$51,740	\$44,270	\$21,674
Linn	\$41,536	\$47,923	\$52,476	\$55,719	\$16,914
Polk	\$33,433	\$51,326	\$69,040	\$42,996	\$15,646
Tillamook	\$36,737	\$50,680	\$52,918	\$43,572	\$20,445
Washington	\$69,389	\$48,615	\$51,248	\$46,767	\$20,638
Yamhill	\$39,468	\$49,793	\$52,292	\$44,162	\$19,402

Data - State of Oregon Employment Department - Employment and Wages by Industry