

Senate Committee on Wildfire Reduction & Recovery

Dear Committee Members,

Ochoco Lumber Co. of Prineville and John Day Oregon urge you to support the continuation of the Governor's Council on Wildfire findings and solutions to further our States effort in tackling this environmental problem.

Our company has been harvesting , on a sustainable basis, trees in Central and Eastern Oregon for close to 100 years. We understand the need for resilient landscape management through thinning, prescribed burns and fuel removal. We have seen that this type of forest management can be successfully implemented on a regional basis. Our lands have survived massive wildfires, started on Public lands, due to our careful and conscientious management methods. SB 1514 is a potential solution to a growing problem that the entire State faces .

We also understand that this solution will take time and a very significant amount of funding. The 1st step should be the immediate identification of pilot projects that collaborative, throughout the state, can agree to implement. With the experienced foresters from ODF and the OSU extension service in conjunction with the USFS , we can proceed quite rapidly on these pilot projects.

Although our industry has been decimated, in the Eastern part of our state, we believe there are areas where the infrastructure can implement the strategies this Bill proposes. Our communities would like to be involved. We need purpose, certainty and funding to meet these challenges. We need to rebuild our successful industry .

The costs of removing non-saw material from the forests should not be underestimated. In John Day Oregon, next to our plant, a new biomass facility is being completed in the next few weeks. This facility will enable our loggers to sell into a consistent market that has been lacking these past years. We now have in place a viable buyer of material. Jobs are being created.

We are hoping we can continue on with the States effort and be part of a solution that benefits the entire state. Through careful monitoring and reporting by the agencies selected, we know we can meet the Governors long range goals for healthy forests and communities. .

Thank you for the opportunity to present our thoughts.

Bruce Daucsavage

Bruce Daucsavage
General Director
Ochoco Management, Inc.
bruce@ochocolumber.com
541-447-6296 (office)
541-480-9459 (cell)