



**Oregon State University**  
**College of Forestry**

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Representative Brad Witt  
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Forest Products Harvest Tax**

Dear Chair Witt and Members of the Committee:

As Dean of the College of Forestry at Oregon State University, I appreciate the opportunity to offer this testimony regarding the Forest Products Harvest Tax that supports the Oregon Forest Research Laboratory and the College of Forestry at Oregon State University.

**Overview of Research and Educational Activities Funded at OSU by the Harvest Tax**

The Oregon Forest Research Laboratory and the OSU College of Forestry serve the state of Oregon as its primary institute of higher education in forestry providing unparalleled instruction and state-of-the-art research and outreach in forest and natural resource sciences. Our faculty work on nearly every aspect of forestry and related renewable materials. The work includes conducting research and teaching activities across the entire forest landscape. We specialize in creating and disseminating knowledge about forest soils, watersheds, water quality, wildlife, climate science, forest management, recreation, forest harvesting, forest ecology wood products manufacturing and engineering, green buildings, policy, economics, and the human dimensions of forest resources, just to name a few.

All these fields are fundamental to the mission of Oregon State University and the College of Forestry. The quality, scope and scale of our work would not be possible without the contribution of Harvest Tax dollars that flow to the College from this legislation. The establishment of the Forestry Education Council by HB4002 (2012) allows the council to advise the College on the best use of Harvest Tax funds to help address the educational needs most urgent to the State's citizens and professionals in forestry-related fields. Increasing faculty and academic program capacity is the council's primary goal when advising on the deployment of Harvest Tax funding.

The Oregon Forest Research Laboratory (established in 1961, ORS 526.225) is Oregon's research and development enterprise focused on forest resources and integrates with

the College's teaching and outreach missions. Those three missions – teaching, research, and outreach – are how we meet our Land-Grant responsibilities to serve all Oregonians, both urban and rural.

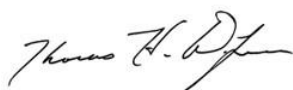
I regularly hear how important this work is to Oregon's timber and wood products industry, state and federal land managers, small landowners, and those who care deeply about our State's healthy working forest landscapes. We collaborate with these interests to deliver knowledge and information on a range of issues vital to sustaining the competitiveness of this critical sector of Oregon's economy in the context of growing ecological and social constraints and pressures.

### **Harvest Tax Dollars Secure Substantial Matching Funds Supporting the College of Forestry**

We are thankful for the timber industry's contribution of the Harvest Tax to Oregonians. The contribution provides a foundation for building funding support that is essential to ensuring we can deliver our research and education programs without relying entirely on general fund appropriations. Historically, in each biennium, the collective interests work with the Legislature to attempt to set a Harvest Tax rate so the tax revenue collected in the next biennium will continue to provide a consistent revenue stream to the College. In the current budget, 27% of the College of Forestry budget comes from education and general funds appropriation, 17% is directly allocated by the legislature to the Forest Research Lab, and 9% comes from Harvest Tax dollars authorized based on projected harvest volumes. The remainder of our budget comes from multiple funding sources such as private donations, grants, and contracted work by our faculty. (See attachment to this testimony.)

In every biennium since the inception of the Harvest Tax, the general fund dollars allocated to the College are first matched by the Harvest Tax contribution from industry. Then, they are matched from other external fund sources that the College can secure. In the current biennium, that has meant Forest Research Lab funding appropriated by the Legislature has been matched at a ratio of nearly 2 to 1, with Harvest Tax dollars supporting all aspects of our work, similar to education general fund appropriations. This leverage is possible only because of this unique funding partnership supporting College operations in place with cooperation from the Legislature, Oregon's timber industry, and the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas H. DeLuca". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Thomas H DeLuca  
Cheryl Ramberg-Ford and Allyn C. Ford Dean

Encl.

**Distribution of OSU College of Forestry Expenditures (est) in FY 19-21 by Source**

