



# Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.

PO Box 12339 • Salem, Oregon 97309-0339 • (503) 364-1330 • Fax (503) 364-0836

March 16, 2021

Subject: HB 2572-1

Chair Witt, Vice Chairs Breese-Iverson and Hudson, and Committee Members:

For the record, my name is Amanda Astor. I am here on behalf of the Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL) as their forest policy manager. AOL is the statewide trade association who has been the voice of small family forest businesses for over 50 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you the voice of nearly 1,000 small family forest businesses who employ more than 22,000 Oregonians and provide sustainable forest management services for Oregon's public and private forestlands. These honorable men and women work every day to steward Oregon's forests while producing economic stability for their communities and living wage jobs for their employees and families.

We are happy to see the Legislature acknowledge the need for more prescribed burning and want to work with this committee to ensure the outcome is appropriate.

What that said, we are concerned that HB 2572-1 makes changes to ORS 477 and believe this type of change allowing greater use of prescribed fire should occur in rulemaking instead.

Additionally, we agree with many of the changes to the Certified Burn Manager program, but do not want to see it become mandated. Coursework about fire holds no water when compared to experience so experience should be core in any program. Firefighters do not become Type 1 Incident Commanders over night, but rather with experience. Again, we oppose this becoming a mandatory program but if it ever did, there should be a way to be grandfathered into the Certified Burn Manager program if knowledge and experience are deemed sufficient. We do not want this program to become a barrier and result in less prescribed fire in the end.

We think this sentiment aligns with our concerns with HB 2572-1 requiring the Board of Forestry to establish by rule a Certified Burn Manager program. We would prefer this language to remain a "may" to let the above rulemaking process play out instead. The Board of Forestry has three new members with a fourth soon to come, a Habitat Conservation Plan in the works, a Forest Management Plan soon to follow and the Private Forest Accord happening in the background of it all.

For these reasons, AOL is neutral on HB 2572-1 but supportive of the sentiment. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on our views regarding HB 2572-1.

Graciously,

Amanda Astor (she/her/hers)  
Forest Policy Manager

*"Voice of forest management working families since 1969"*  
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