



Oregon Operations

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April 8, 2021

Senator Jeff Golden, Chair  
Senator Dallas Heard, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife Recovery  
900 Court Street NE, Room 453  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 762

Chair Golden and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to support SB 762, which provides for implementation of the recommendations laid out by the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response.

Green Diamond Resource Company was founded in 1890 and is still privately held after five generations. The company owns and manages 2.1 million acres of timberland in the US west and south. In 2014, Green Diamond purchased lands in Klamath, Lake and Jackson counties; the company now owns 660,000 acres of timberland in Southern and Northeastern Oregon. These forests are managed sustainably to provide wood fiber to area manufacturing facilities. We also manage two large Improved Forest Management Carbon projects on our Southern Oregon lands, selling carbon offset credits under the California Air Resources Board (CARB) protocols. In addition to offsetting carbon emissions, these projects provide near-term revenue for forest health thinning and other forest management activities to ensure resilience against wildfire.

Since purchasing these lands our company has, on average, lost one percent of our forests per year to wildfire. Foresters who have managed this landscape for decades can attest that drier, more volatile climate conditions contribute to increased wildfire occurrence. In addition, some 75 percent of our boundaries border federal lands where a lack of management has created massive insect damage and fuel loading. It is only a matter of time before another conflagration – and another – threaten our investments. Our treated lands cannot withstand massive wildfires fueled by thousands of acres of overstocked, dead and dying federal forests. *As plans unfold for additional treatment of federal, state and private forests, we ask that priority be placed on treating public lands adjacent to private forests, to ensure protection of our investments in forest health.*

Our crews fought fires last summer that threatened both Chiloquin and Paisley. We helped employees evacuate as these fires approached. *We are particularly sensitive to the elements of this legislation that address the wildland-urban interface and provide for treatment of defensible space. We further encourage legislators to consider help for rural Oregonians whose financial situation prevents them from completing these treatments on their own.*

SB 762 comprehensively covers the recommendations from the Wildfire Council. This list of actions has been thoroughly vetted by stakeholders and we urge the Oregon Legislature to aggressively pursue implementation. We understand additional legislation will be coming forward in the coming days and weeks to address these and other issues relating to wildfire. We want to take this opportunity to thank you and other legislators for your attention to this serious topic, and to encourage you to work to ensure the Wildfire Council recommendations are implemented just as soon as possible to protect rural Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John Davis  
Vice President and General Manager