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To the Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources:

SB 5518 contains a fund shift away from the traditional 60-40 split between General Fund and private dollars for the administration of the Oregon Forest Practices Act to a 50-50 split. The shift represents \$3.7million per biennium or \$1.85million per year shifted onto private landowners for implementation of the Oregon Forest Practices Act. This is bad policy, inappropriate, and unnecessary.

Bad Policy

The Oregon Forest Practices Act literally consists of an entire book of prescriptive laws that protect public resources and restrict private landowner actions on their property; laws that direct that certain trees cannot be harvested, certain roads cannot be built, and certain stream crossings must be upgraded to provide fish passage. We strongly support the stewardship ethic that these laws represent, and vigorously strive for 100% compliance to these laws. That said, these laws exist to protect *public resources*, such as water, fish, and wildlife species. There is *no* economic benefit to landowners themselves, only costs. It is appropriate, therefore, that the public pay the bulk of administering the program that protects these interests. Similar programs on Agricultural lands are 100% voluntary and offer General Fund payments for implementation.

Inappropriate

Roseburg is one of several companies that has had the unfortunate opportunity of striving to rebound after the devastating fires of 2020. Along with other fellow private landowners, we were there as first responders on our lands and on the lands of our neighbors helping to suppress the flames and save life and limb in our communities. We then transitioned and have been actively working to restore thousands of acres of our lands. This is hard work – it's heartbreaking and expensive. And now, this proposed budget quietly prescribed this cost shift of \$3.7 million dollars onto hardworking private landowners.

Unnecessary

This cost shift adds nothing in terms of extra capacity for the implementation or monitoring of the Oregon Forest Practices Act. It simply represents a shift of cost from the General Fund to private landowners. We would be open to a thoughtful discussion regarding the needs of the Department and are aware that the monitoring program, for example, could use additional capacity at this time. That said, this shift offers no additional capacity, no better implementation or training – it is simply a shift in the ledger. Oregon deserves better.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Roddy

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