

From: Carol Kleps <ctkleps@gmail.com>
Subject: Legislative Testimony
Date: February 23, 2021 at 2:38:44 PM PST
To: chriskleps78@gmail.com

Dear Chair Witt:

We wish to keep the tax structure that we live with as consistent and predictable as possible. We want to retain the Oregon Forest Resources Institute as it is.

We have owned and managed our 33 acre woodlot at 33811 E Hwy 224 In Estacada since 1982. In that time we have reforested a clearcut we inherited from Publisher's Paper, and done several partial and thinning harvests of our own. We received the Clackamas County tree farmer of the year award in the 1990's. We do this because we love living with trees and doing forestry. We haven't made a lot of money at it. We live about a mile upriver from the City of Estacada. All the properties around us are being cleared of trees, and divided into smaller and smaller parcels.

We believe that increasing the amount of forested land is important to create a carbon sink and combat global warming. We believe that global warming is one of the reasons for the catastrophic Riverside Fire which came very close to burning us out this past September. If it hadn't been for our neighbors stepping up and putting out the fires across Hwy 224 on Sept 8 & 9 when the fire departments had pulled out, I think we would have burned.

We would hope that the State Legislature would do everything it can to promote small scale forestry. The preservation of the Small Tract Option as it is important to us.

Thank you for your consideration of our opinion,

Chris & Carol Kleps

