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To the House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources:

Thank you Chair Witt and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition of House Bills 2379 & 2389. My name is Tiffany Roddy and I am the Government Affairs Manager for Roseburg Forest Products. I am a professional Forester that has practiced silviculture and worked in the forest products industry in Oregon for over a decade.

Roseburg Forest Products operates in and is a significant employer in rural areas across Oregon, and we are in strong support of healthy rural counties. We have seen first-hand the damage in our communities from the halt of logging on federal lands. Timber harvest was historically the primary way for those federal lands to contribute to our counties, but the loss of mills and jobs from the lack of federal harvest has impacted rural Oregon more so than just the loss of available timber payments.

As costs rise, businesses in these rural areas find it harder and harder to compete; taxes on our timberlands will increase the cost of logs to our mills (and then each subsequent product) which will make us less competitive. In our opinion, the provision of family-wage jobs in these rural areas is more important than raising/imposing taxes that may risk businesses and jobs, and further erode tax bases.

Roseburg Forest Products is also a signatory of the Private Forest Accord, which is the historic agreement between a coalition of private forest landowners and environmental organizations to make changes to the Forest Practices Act. SB 1602, which codified the agreement and made significant reforms to aerial pesticide procedures, is clear evidence that the Accord can work collaboratively on divisive issues, even despite wildfires and a pandemic; it passed with bipartisan support in both chambers last year.

Both sides of the Accord recognize the sensitive and potentially precedential nature of the discussions and have agreed that fighting about forestry-related legislation during the negotiation period could be counter-productive. While these four bills are not directly related to the negotiation topics, they can be disruptive to the current work being done.

If the Committee has not already, I would encourage you to read the Oregonian's February 7<sup>th</sup> Op ed by Arnie Roblan and Caddy McKeown in support of the Private Forest Accord's process:  
<https://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/2021/02/opinion-timber-environmental-interests-collaborative-problem-solving-deserves-oregonians-support.html>

Thank you for considering this testimony in opposition of House Bills 2379 & 2389. We ask you to set these bills aside in the name of our rural communities, and to give the Private Forest Accord parties the space needed to carry out their groundbreaking, collaborative work.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tiffany Roddy*

**Tiffany Roddy**

Manager of Government Affairs  
Roseburg Forest Products

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