

Feb. 3, 2022

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

RE: In support of SB 1501 and 1502

Chair Senator Golden and members of the Committee

My name is Mike Barsotti. I am a family forest landowner in the Lyons area and past President of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association. Our association is in support of SBs 1501 and 1502 that implement the Private Forest Accord.

Finding the balance between the economic, ecological, and social components that provide forest sustainability is difficult, and using the ballot box through the Initiative process to define this balance is near impossible.

We believe that the process agreed to by members of Oregon's forest landowners and environmental non-profit organizations provides the best opportunity to define a balance that in total will benefit all Oregonians, but the Private Forest Accord will have a disproportional negative impact of many family forest landowners who have a significant portions of their forests adjacent to streams. SB 1502 provides some economic relief.

Again, OSWA asks that you move SB 1502 and its companion SB 1501 forward.