

Submitter: Bob Sowdon
On Behalf Of: Oregon Citizens Lobby
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery
Measure: SB1546

Chair Sen Jeff Golden and Committee members,

Medaling with the Common School Fund is an injustice to the people of Oregon, I started my involvement in 2010 when my logger neighbor asked what was going on with the tree huggers in the Elliot. I looked and found that these protesters were costing the County a lot of money, and when it was over, they received a slap on the wrist! Aughhh

This bill SB 1546, establishes the Elliott State Research Forest but is not about creating a sustainable forest for cutting and selling timber for the common school fund. It is more boondoggles for inclusive public processes and equity and to create an enduring, world-class research forest. The Oregon K-12 schools have lost \$100+ million through mismanagement, including the complete closure when OSU got involved, — the past 10+ years, and cost 400 rural jobs in the process. Forest Authority may request the State Treasurer to issue bonds for financing to be used for administration. The forests in Oregon are called sustainable for a reason, you cut, and replant to cut many years later. You don't need bonds as the Forest will pay for itself and provide money for our schools as was intended, this bill makes a mockery of the intent of the Common School Forest, by spending funds to manage the forest to promote collaboration, partnerships, inclusive public processes, and equity. Let's get real, I have been to many meetings on the Spotted Owl and when Forest was allowed to sit idle and burn. Oregon has been cutting Timber for profit, creating jobs and income. Keep it Simple stupid, rings the bell as the forest is not a Research Center for students nor is it a recreational playground foe Tree Huggers, but is a funding source for Oregon Schools, focus committee members.

The amendment -1, further removes funding from schools:

“(b) To finance infrastructure, including but not limited to telecommunications systems, systems for water, sewage, electricity, steam or natural gas and other equipment or improvements that are necessary or appropriate to support a facility that is, or will be, owned or operated by the state;

“(d) To finance all or a portion of the state’s pension liabilities for retirement, health care or disability benefits, in an amount that produces net proceeds that do not exceed the State Treasurer’s estimate of those liabilities based on information provided to the State Treasurer by the Public Employees Retirement System;

“(a) The State Land Board ensures that financial obligations to the Common School

Fund related to the Elliott State Forest are satisfied; “(b) The State Land Board votes to decouple the Elliott State Forest from the Common School Fund and authorizes actions necessary to transfer the forest to management described in sections 1 to 22 of this 2022 Act;

Please leave the Common School funds and leave the Forest to fund our schools as intended!

Thank you,

Bob Sowdon