

Submitter: Hanna Van Camp

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Measure: SB1502

Dear Committee:

My name is Hanna, I am fourth generation of a family-owned timber operation on the Southern Oregon Coast. The Industry compliments themselves on coming to this agreement to provide regulatory continuity which will “help” operations. According to a presentation from Oregon Wild, the HCP to be implemented by this forest accord will be a 50 year timeline for salmon and a 25 year timeline for amphibians. The shorter 25 year amphibian term is because there are more “unknowns” with an HCP for amphibians. The amphibious species are mostly located in the coastal range.

Our rotation period for harvest is 80+ years. These time periods may benefit the large companies who have shorter harvest rotation periods. Many closely held, family operations operate on a longer cycle.

Although the PFA may provide a set of rules for 25 and/or 50 years, it is not the end of regulation. Oregon Wild states that other issues were not discussed or agreed upon in the PFA. These issues include pesticide use, federal forest climate policy, water quality and timber tax reforms. The regulatory environment is constantly changing. This process of coming to an agreement, in a closed door meeting, is not democratic and did not allow for input by many stakeholders and landowners. The majority of these stakeholders are family-owned small and medium sized operations.

I am in opposition of SB 1501 and SB 1502. If changes are to be made to the Oregon Forest Practices Act, they should be done during the regular legislative session. Sweeping changes of this nature should not be decided on in closed door meetings with no option for input from affected individuals. Asking us to trade our ability to harvest timber for a tax credit is short-term thinking, which sounds like the mindset of the large corporations, and not that of the family-owned operations.

Thank you,
Hanna Van Camp