



# Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.

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February 7, 2023

The Honorable Ken Helm, Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: HB 3019 - **OPPOSE**

Chair Helm, Vice Co-Chair Hartman and Owens and Committee Members:

For the record, my name is Amanda Sullivan-Astor. I am here on behalf of the Associated Oregon Loggers as their forest policy manager. AOL is the statewide trade association and voice of Oregon's firefighters, loggers, restoration contractors, reforestation companies and other forest operators and we cannot support HB 3019.

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute was formed in 1991 by the Oregon Legislature with the recognition that, "[t]he welfare of the state is [...] largely dependent on the health and vigor of the forest products industry." The importance of the timber industry to Oregon's gross domestic product and welfare is just as true today as it was in 1991.

Their charge has been to support this important industry and the wise stewardship of natural resources for the benefit of Oregonians.

Let's dwell on that word "support". Support is defined in this context by Merriam-Webster as "to promote the interests or cause of." It only seems fitting that OFRI's governing body be experts in the sector they are tasked with supporting to ensure their work is constantly striving to meet that purpose. It would be difficult for a public Board to help in this way if they didn't have first-hand knowledge of the issues affecting the forest sector, the way the economic ecosystem worked or the micro and macro factors driving the global marketplace.

As a member of the Partnership for Forestry Education AOL works together with OFRI and other partners to educate the sector about new research, innovative techniques and changes to law and regulation. OFRI's administrative and collaborative role is irreplaceable. Their experience and expertise is complementary to other partners such as Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Oregon State University, NOT duplicative.

OFRI's production of the Oregon Forest Protection Laws illustrated manual has also been a critical leaning tool providing graphical representations and photos of regulations and practices required by law. Our laws and regulations can be challenging for any type of learner to comprehend and this visual learning tool has been an OFRI staple among our members who often absorb information best through visual and tactile learning.

Additionally, as a non-regulating state entity, OFRI's ability to effectively communicate with forest contractors is different than ODF's. Pulling them under ODF would minimize their effectiveness in achieving their purpose.

Again, their purpose is truly one of support and the scaffolding OFRI programs provide add to the robust nature of the forest products sector in the state.

To pull them apart, discount their value and disrespect the entire forestry sector that relies on them for their support is frankly heartbreaking. This is why we must oppose HB 3019 at this time.

Thank you and I am available for any questions.

Graciously,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Sullivan-Astor', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Amanda Sullivan-Astor**

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