Submitter:	Becky Crockett
On Behalf Of:	Curry County
Committee:	Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure:	SB795

SB 795 is common sense legislation. At the county level we have watched our state foresters focus on issuing Notification permits, monitor private forest operations, diligently enforce fire restrictions, and coordinate with the Department of Revenue to make sure forest harvest taxes are paid. Since 2021 we have watched the ODF transition and staff up to self educate and enforce the Private Forest Accord (PFA). What we have NOT seen is active management of our state forest lands. Curry County owns a very small amount of forest lands (approximately 400 acres). Unfortunately the majority of that forest land will be off limits under the PFA which was suppose to exempt public agencies. Still, we actively manage our tiny amount of forest land with the help of the Coos County Forestry program. Curry County has a contract in place for South Coast Lumber to harvest a small parcel to make room for a Veterans Housing Project. This same parcel of forest land was received by the County in a land trade with State Parks. When the County received the land, the valuable Western Red Cedar on the property was actively being harvested illegally and sold to make bow arrows in Coos County. Over \$100,000. worth of Western Red Cedar was taken from the property by an active theft ring before the County had control of the property and stopped it. We are seeing this kind of illegal forest destruction on public lands throughout the county. With so little oversight and management by ODF this kind of illegal activity will undoubtedly continue. With so little revenue coming in to Curry County we cannot afford to just watch this valuable resource become subject to theft, destruction by homeless and drug vagrants who actively are making the state and federal forest lands their home and the drug cartels. The state simply is unable to manage these lands. Please consider returning our forests to local governments who can actively manage this valuable resource for the people.