

Submitter: LaJuana Decker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB795

I wholeheartedly support SB795.

Return the forest lands to the counties to manage for their “greatest permanent value.” Those of us who live next door to our forest lands have the greatest interest in seeing forests managed well, and we are also the ones who are threatened when they are mismanaged. Not only do our counties lose the revenue necessary to keep schools and other county services intact when forests are not managed for the “greatest permanent value,” but our very homes and businesses also stand in the paths of the fires that continue to rage through mismanaged forests.

The state has broken trust with the counties that gave over these forests to them to manage for the “greatest permanent value.” Who manages a garden better? Those who observe it every time they step out their door and breathe the fresh forest air, or those who sit in urban offices miles away? The forests are the gardens of rural Oregon.

Returning the management of this beautiful resource to the counties wherein they grow makes for sound fiscal and environmental policy. It can also help to bridge the urban-rural divide that has plagued Oregon with mistrust of and hostility toward its government.

Please be a voice in support of all of Oregon and vote yes on SB795.

LaJuana Decker