



February 17, 2025

Oregon State Legislature  
Attn: Senate Energy and Environment Committee  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Forest Industries Council, I am writing in **support of SB 339**, which requests an appropriation of \$3.1 million dollars to the Oregon Department of Forestry to expend on carrying out integrated pest management program under ORS 527.310 to 527.370 to combat the plant disease Sudden Oak Death (SOD).

As the trade organization that represents not only large landowners but forest products manufacturers all over Oregon, forest health is a core priority. Together, OFIC members provide for themselves, their families, and more than 60,000 other households via their lands and manufacturing facilities. We are worried about the impact of SOD and the harm it can cause to valuable timber species, the disruption it could cause to the supply chain and potential economic losses to the timber industry in Oregon.

Sudden Oak Death threatens the overall forest health, increasing tree mortality, and complicating forest management practices, including fire risk mitigation. The spread of SOD could also result in stricter regulations and stricter restrictions on timber products, impacting market access and operational costs for the industry.

We applaud Senator Brock Smith's longstanding work on this issue. He has been a consistently steady champion, going back to his co-chairing a SOD Task Force with Senator Jeff Merkley in 2017 (and even before this) and urge the committee to pass it out of committee and to Ways and Means. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Eliason  
On Behalf of the Oregon Forest Industries Council