March 10, 2025

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) proudly serves as the voice of small woodland owners, advocating for the long-term health and resilience of Oregon's family-owned forests. We strongly support HB 2408 with the -1 amendment, recognizing its critical role in sustaining the research and outreach programs that benefit our members and the broader natural resource community.

Oregon State University's Statewide Public Service Programs—the Agricultural Experiment Station, Extension Service, and Forest Research Laboratory—are essential to Oregon's agricultural and forestry sectors. For family forestland owners, the Forest Research Laboratory is an invaluable partner, providing the research and expertise needed to grow and maintain healthy, productive forests.

Scientists and foresters at the Forest Research Laboratory conduct vital research on sustainable forestry practices, pest management, climate adaptation, wildfire resilience, and more. Their work directly benefits small woodland owners by equipping them with the latest science-based management strategies to navigate the challenges of a changing environment.

Beyond research, OSWA members rely on the hands-on support provided through OSU Extension programs, including workshops, published research, and one-on-one consultations. These resources offer essential guidance for maintaining resilient forestlands, ensuring that Oregon's small woodlands remain productive, healthy, and sustainable for future generations.

HB 2408 guarantees that small woodland owners continue to have access to cutting-edge research, education, and technological advancements. This investment by the legislature is vital to preserving Oregon's forests, strengthening our rural economies, and safeguarding the environmental benefits that our woodlands provide to all Oregonians.

We urge your support of HB 2408 to sustain these invaluable programs and ensure the continued success of Oregon's family-owned forests.

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