



Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.

PO Box 12339 | Salem, Oregon 97309 | (503) 364-1330 | aol@oregonloggers.org

March 12, 2025

The Honorable Lew Frederik, Chair
Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol; Salem, OR 97301

Subject: SB 5521 - **SUPPORT**

Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair Levy, and Members of the Committee,

Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL) is the statewide trade association and voice of nearly 1,000 small, family-owned businesses that provide the workforce essential to managing Oregon's forests. We represent Oregon's firefighters, loggers, restoration contractors, reforestation companies and other forest contractors. Our members, who collectively employ close to 23,000 Oregonians, are deeply committed to the sustainability and health of Oregon's forests and forest sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. We strongly support SB 5521 to ensure the Oregon Department of Forestry has the resources to manage our forests, protect communities from wildfire, and support a sustainable forest sector. AOL is thankful for the partnership we have with ODF to ensure we continue to have healthy forests and safe communities.

However, we want to stress how critical it is for State Forests to produce enough in timber receipts to maintain the Division. Forest land can pay for its own management along with other recreation, transportation, and restoration projects and the state's forest assets should not become a liability to taxpayers.

Additionally, we urge continued investment in SB 762's fire resilience programs as a part of the overall wildfire funding package, including at least:

- **\$10 million for the Landscape Resiliency Program**
- **\$2.5 million for the Small Forestland Grant Program**

These programs provide necessary funds to complete required forest health treatments across the state which also provide ample work opportunities for AOL's member companies.

Additionally, SB 762 required the development of a **20-Year Landscape Resiliency Plan**, identifying high-risk areas for proactive wildfire mitigation and restoration efforts. However, this plan must move beyond theory and into action. To achieve this, we support agency funding for:

- The development of systematic action plans for designated **HUC 6 planning areas** to ensure targeted and effective mitigation efforts.
- Conducting **Landscape Evaluations** for those HUC 6 watersheds to assess wildfire risk and forest conditions.
- Creating science-based **Landscape Prescriptions** to guide restoration treatments and fuel reduction.
- Implementing these plans on the ground to achieve measurable wildfire risk reduction and/or including them in federal planning for out year projects.

Implementation of these projects can be done through the Landscape Resiliency Programs grants, Western State Fire Managers grants, and/or the Federal Forest Restoration Program.

With wildfire seasons growing longer and more severe, proactive investment in forest resilience is essential. We urge your support of SB 5521 and additional support to the department through the wildfire funding package with dedicated funding for SB 762's landscape resiliency program, to ensure Oregon moves from planning to meaningful implementation in our wildfire mitigation efforts.

Amanda Sullivan-Astor, CF

Forest Policy Manager; Associated Oregon Loggers
Office: 503-364-1330 aastor@oregonloggers.org