

Submitter: Matt McElligott
On Behalf Of: Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3846

My name is Matt McElligott. I reside in North Powder, Oregon where my wife and I operate a ranch. I currently serve as the President for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA). Oregon is home to 11,000 ranching families who are distributed across Oregon and located in every Oregon County raising more than 1.2 million head of cattle. The ranching industry contributes more than \$1 Billion to Oregon's economy.

The 2024 wildfire season was beyond the comprehension of those who were affected where more than 1.9 Million acres were burned. Ranchers lost homes, outbuildings, pastures, equipment and cattle. Proper forest management at all levels would have assisted in avoiding the financial catastrophe many ranchers are now facing. The wildfires did not only impact the ranchers, but it also impacted small communities and the wildfire response cost Oregon millions of dollars.

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association supports HB 3846 for the simple reason that it opens the dialogue for local control and engages the federal government about the importance of proper forest management.

Thank you for receiving this testimony. I am available for any follow-up questions you might have.

Matt McElligott, President
Oregon Cattlemen's Association