

Statewides

To: Joint Subcommittee on Education, Senator Janeen Sollman and Representative Ricki Ruiz, co-Chairs  
Members of the Committee

From: Susan Watkins, small forest landowner  
13440 SW McCabe Chapel Road, McMinnville, Oregon 97128 Re: HB 3489

Re: SB 5525

I SUPPORT this measure.

My husband and I own 48 acres of working forestland outside McMinnville. During the 30+ years we have owned the property, we have worked closely with the Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon State University College of Forestry Extension, and the Oregon Small Woodlands Association to create a sustainable, healthy forest where trees are free to grow and wildlife abounds.

During my time working on our tree farm and working with forestry policy, I have come to appreciate greatly Extension's impact on Oregon's small forests. In 2002, I became a Master Woodland Manager (MWM) through Forestry Extension. I also served two terms on the Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF) advising the Board of Forestry about small forest issues.

OSU's Statewide Public Service Programs (notably Extension and the Forest Research Laboratory) are essential to Oregon's small private forests.

The Forest Research Laboratory has been an invaluable partner for us as family forestland owners, providing the research we need to grow and nurture healthy, sustainable, and productive forests. We depend on the research conducted by the scientists and foresters at the Forest Research Laboratory to shape our forestry practices with regard to pests, climate issues, wildfire resilience, and more. The Lab's work directly benefits small woodland owners by equipping us with scientific data to support the management strategies that enable us to keep our forests healthy.

As an MWM, I have relied on OSU Extension workshops, published research, and advice as I work with other small forest owners who, like me, want to grow and maintain the best forests in the world. As a member of the CFF, I heard regularly from other small forest owners who also depend on Extension and the Forest Research Lab for expertise and scientific break-throughs.

SB 5525 helps guarantee that small woodland owners will continue to have access to this vital and cutting-edge research, education, and technological advancements. Please SUPPORT this important legislation.