

**TILLAMOOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
*"Conservators of the peace" Sheriff Andy Long*



**March 4, 2015**

**Oregon Board of Forestry  
Oregon Department of Forestry  
Salem Headquarters  
2600 State Street  
Salem, Oregon 97310**

**Members of the Board of Forestry:**

**As you discuss the future of timber harvest allocations on state forestlands, I ask you to consider the impacts your decision will have on the public safety and the economy of rural counties like Tillamook County. I can say with certainty that if a solution is not reached to better maximize timber harvest, my Office will have to make cuts and we will lose deputies.**

**I have served with the Tillamook County Sheriff's Office since 1991 and have served as Sheriff since 2011. Before I was in charge of the budget, I served in multiple positions including Corrections Deputy, Patrol Deputy, Patrol Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, Jail Commander, and Undersheriff. I have been involved with my counties budget process since 2005. My long service has given me a firsthand look at the invaluable role every member in my office plays and the loss of any one of our staff hampers our ability to serve the public safety.**

**Throughout my tenure, I have seen timber receipts repeatedly decline and seen the negative impact these losses have had on families, local communities, our County and my Sherriff's Office. Since 2008 my Office has not been whole and we have struggled with the loss of positions, we are already understaffed and currently don't have Patrol Deputies available 24 hours a day. The budgetary situation is not improving and my office will continue to have to make cuts if the County cannot identify additional revenue. Patrolling a county the size of Tillamook presents challenges when we are fully staffed during the winter months, during summer months our population easily doubles. When we start losing deputy positions, we lose our ability to effectively protect Tillamook County citizens and its visitors in the manner in which they deserve.**

**We must find more funding for Tillamook County and this Board can help immediately by fulfilling its obligation to provide healthy, productive and sustainable forest ecosystems that over time and across the landscape provide a full range of social, economic, and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon.**

**It is well known that state forestlands are underutilized despite the requirement that they be managed to obtain maximum sustained yield. By ensuring that 70% of state forestlands are dedicated to timber production, the Board of Forestry will allow for needed funding to flow into Trust Lands counties so that critical services like public safety can be fulfilled.**

**Our communities have been atrophying in lockstep with the decline in timber harvests. Rural Oregon communities must have adequate public safety levels or we as public servants are falling short of our duty. Some would say that bringing a Sheriff in to testify is a “scare tactic” but I live in the community I protect, and so does my family, what I want for my family is what I want for my community. When I come before you to point out the public safety risks Tillamook County faces due to loosing Deputies it is out of duty to my family, and my community. Please help us protect and serve Tillamook County. Please settle on an equitable forest management plan.**

Sincerely,



**Andy Long**  
**Sheriff, Tillamook County**

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