

Testimony to the Board of Forestry

My name is Lianne Thompson, and my address is PO Box 1187, Cannon Beach, Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today, and thank you for the public service you give so generously and so well to the people of Oregon.

I'm speaking to you today as a private citizen, not as an elected member of the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, which I am. I represent District 5, the whole southern half of Clatsop County.

In my private life, I live in a little house in the woods, three blocks off the North Pacific, completely surrounded by Oswald West State Forest. As you know, Clatsop County contains a lot of the temperate rain forest, and our trees are more valuable and more easily harvested than anywhere else.

Because I live in the woods, some people think I only value the forest as a recreational wilderness.

Others may think that, since I am a small business owner and long-time budget and policy analyst, I only value the "bottom line" financial matters of business and government.

Neither is the complete truth.

Rather, what I see is the interconnectedness of the systems within which we live. This includes economic, ecological, and cultural systems.

Nothing and no one exists in isolation, and our actions and interactions impact all of us.

That means stresses, conflicts, resolutions, and rewards. If we treat each other as ACEs, things go better, I think.

What do I mean?

The "A" stands for accountability, used as a tool, not as a weapon. We are mutually accountable, hopefully using accountability as a tool to enhance performance, not as a weapon to attack another.

The "C" stands for communication, based on affection and respect. Things work better if we look for reasons to like and respect one another.

The "E" stands for empowerment, based on appropriate rules, roles, and responsibilities. Nobody gets to be the boss of everybody, and it's about how we use ourselves responsibly and respectfully.

If anyone tries to force their will on another, it works badly. If anyone tries to ignore another who has a rightful role to play, it works badly. So, ACEs it is.

What I'd ask is that we use principles like these to guide our interactions, because I fear anything else results in rich lawyers and impoverished public services. With all due respect to the lawyers in the room!

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak with you today, and I look forward to working productively with you and my other colleagues, on all sides of these complex issues.