

Testimony to the Board of Forestry, November 5, 2015

Chairman Imeson and members of the Board of Forestry;

My name is Dallas Boge. I am one of the directors of the Forest Grove Rural Fire Protection District, which borders the Tillamook Forest.

I want to emphasize the importance of the timber revenue our district receives from the state in its operation. In my nearly 25 years as a volunteer firefighter for the district, I responded many times to fires and medical emergencies in the Tillamook Forest. Often, we were the first on scene, important in keeping a small incident small.

The state cannot afford to have enough manpower and equipment to handle all incidents anywhere at all times. That is where mutual aid from adjacent agencies plays an important role. With the funding from timber sales on state lands, our district, like many others in similar proximity can have the manpower and equipment that supplements state resources.

For example: the August fire on Highway 26 in August of 2015, the state was already stretched thin from fighting fires in Eastern Oregon. Our department was able to send a crew, and more importantly, a 3000 gallon water tender to help control the fire. Without the help of the state timber revenue, we may not have had the manpower or equipment to respond.

On behalf of our district, I request that you formulate the management plan under consideration to keep at least 70% of the land in timber production.

Thank you for your attention.