



OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

November 4, 2015

Oregon Board of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Members of the Board of Forestry,

We understand that the Board is considering new stream rules to protect cold water. We write out of concern that new setbacks and tree retention requirements may do little for Oregon streams, but may be very costly to the local communities that benefit from forest management. As representatives of those communities, we encourage you to take a very measured approach to your work.

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute reports that the forest sector contributes \$12.7 billion to Oregon's economy each year, and accounts for 6.8% of Oregon's industrial output. At the same time, forestry products and services account for more than 58,000 jobs in Oregon, with an average wage of over \$43,000 per year. Those jobs are particularly important in the rural communities we represent where wood product manufacturing can account for more than fifty percent of all manufacturing jobs.

Where we come from, "jobs" are more than a number. They represent the livelihoods of friends and family members who work in the timber industry.

With these people in mind, it is worth noting that Oregon law gives you a great deal of flexibility to tailor the solution to the size and nature of the problem. To the extent that the temperature impacts are not large, and to the extent that fish and other aquatic life are not materially harmed, then you may conclude that large new buffers are not "practicable." You should not feel burdened by the ideological and policy positions of regulatory bodies far removed from the issue.

Given the unprecedented curtailment of federal wood production in Oregon, and ever-increasing regulation of forest practices, it is important to preserve harvest opportunities where we can. We encourage you to view skeptically any proposal to impose large new management restrictions for negligible ecological returns, particularly given impacts to local communities.

Sincerely,

Sen Ted Ferrioli

Sen Betsy Johnson