

June 4, 2008

Board of Forestry Members:

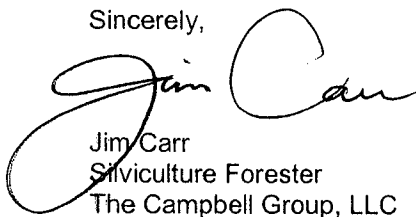
I appreciate the opportunity to address you today on the subject of wildfire risk and the funding for protection from wildfire. The process of budgeting for wildfire protection is complex. The difficulty is compounded by the need to budget in advance of uncertain weather conditions that play such a large role in the severity of our wildfire seasons in Oregon.

As a representative of an industrial landowner and a professional forester for thirty-three years, I see the need to protect our forests, whether public or private, from wildfire and to provide the protection in an affordable manner for taxpayers and landowners. Many factors contribute to these costs and I would like to address three of these today:

1. Federal Wildfire Policy
 2. Adequate Levels of Protection
 3. Equity in Funding
- Federal wildfire policies have forced adjacent landowners to consider the potential for fires to burn from federal lands onto state protected lands. Most of our company lands are protected by the Coos Forest Protective Association (CFPA) and recent fires have shown the need to be aggressive in controlling fires on the Siskiyou National Forest, even if the cost is born by the adjacent landowners. This consideration has added to the cost of protection by expanding the area being monitored for wildfire.
 - An adequate level of protection can be established by extensive involvement with the Department of Forestry and the landowners of each district. The CFPA completed their first protection level study and implementation plan in 2003 and has completed a five-year review in 2008. From the study we have developed what the CFPA agrees is the most efficient level of protection and also developed the budgets with that basis. Within this framework the discussion of increased capacity versus funding for severity can be addressed.
 - Providing equity in funding for fire protection is important to meet the goal of 50% landowner and 50% general fund monies. The current funding structure and payments are skewed to landowners paying a greater share and equity needs to be restored. Public use of private forestland for recreation in Oregon and the benefits of water and other resources need to be considered when addressing the issue of equity.

Thank you for your consideration of these important topics.

Sincerely,



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