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Good Afternoon to the Members of the Board of Forestry

I'm Michael Robison Director of Central Services for Clatsop County. I'm here on behalf of The Clatsop County Commissioners who were unable to attend.

As a member of the Council of Forest Trust Land Counties, I wish to speak in favor of the increased harvest levels for the Clatsop State Forest. The Clatsop State Forest is a key economic engine in Clatsop County providing significant employment in both the private and public sectors of the County. The Clatsop State Forest provides a significant revenue source for Clatsop County government. We use our share of the proceeds from the timber sales to purchase, renovate, and maintain our county facilities; improve and construct our County road infrastructure; sustain our public safety efforts in the County; create and maintain financial reserves that will be used to assist the County in weathering the current economic crisis. Significant portions of the Clatsop State forest revenues also provide support to local k-12 education system and the local community college as well as up to other Special Districts in the County.

Some members of the Board of Forestry have stated that a careful balance needs to be achieved when deciding on whether or not to allow the increase to harvest levels. After consulting with staff from the Astoria District Office, we feel confident that harvest levels can be increased to provide greater economic output while still achieving the goals to provide for wildlife habitat. Thank you for this opportunity to speak before the Board and thank you for your time. I am happy to answer any questions you may have (and you have to act happy when you say this).