

JACKIE DINGFELDER
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 23



OREGON STATE SENATE
900 COURT ST. NE S-407
SALEM, OR 97301

June 2, 2009

John Blackwell, Chair, Oregon Board of Forestry
c/o Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Chair Blackwell and the Oregon Board of Forestry:

I am writing to you regarding the ongoing decisions you face on the management of the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests. As you know, there has been considerable interest and a great deal of conversation this legislative session regarding your Board and the management of the state forests. The most interest has centered on HB 3072, which would make timber production the primary purpose of these state lands.

Given the vocal enthusiasm among some of my colleagues for a quick decision by the Board for increased timber harvest, I thought it important to write to ensure you that such sentiment is not universally held.

I do not believe that Oregon's interests would be best served by raising timber production above other values on the forest, nor do I believe that a decision on forest management should be made if the record is not ready. In particular, I hope that you will take care that long-range management decisions are anchored in peer-reviewed and interdisciplinary science. My experience has been that shortcuts on science often lead to long delays on implementation.

My constituents have made clear to me that they want a balanced and multi-resource approach to these forests in which no single value dominates management. If there is a bias among my constituent communication, it is strongly in favor of a far greater conservation emphasis for these forests, and certainly not for increased timber harvest, especially in these times of very low timber prices. I do not see a strong environmental bias in the current plan nor do I believe the Oregon Forest Practices Act is the appropriate standard for management of the state forests.

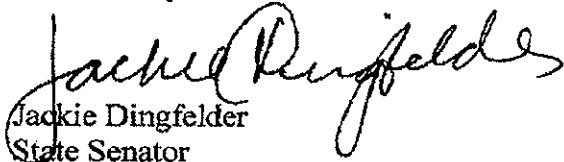
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AGENDA ITEM A
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I appreciate the time that Chair Blackwell has taken this session to visit with my colleagues and me regarding forest management in Oregon. I know that you have taken a public stand against HB 3072. My intent with this letter is not to direct your decision-making. Rather, I simply want to make it clear that you should not read the interest in HB 3072 as reflective of everyone in the legislature. There is, in fact, interest in more conservation on these lands as well. As you proceed, I encourage you to take your time and to keep an anchor in sound science.

Sincerely,


Jackie Dingfelder
State Senator
Senate District 23