

July 23, 2015

## **Members of the Board of Forestry**

My name is Allan Foutch and I have my Bachelor and Master of Science in Forest Management. I have been a professional forester for over 35 years, spending the last 20 years managing almost 26,000 acres of Oregon coastal forests for Miami Corporation, a private family company. Miami has owned its Oregon timberlands for over 104 years and has always managed its lands to balance current needs with the protection of all resources for future generations. My responsibility is to Miami's current and future family members, as well as the contractors and employees who earn their living from Miami's forest. I take my responsibility very seriously and believe I know Miami's coastal timberlands very, very well.

Miami's timberlands include the headwaters of coastal and valley streams and rivers. We voluntarily invest over \$300,000 each year in improving and maintaining our road drainage systems and stream crossings, and have spent millions to meet the goals of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board since the inception of the Oregon Salmon Plan. We believe strongly in healthy watersheds and biologically strong streams. The result has been constantly improving fish populations and a very in-depth knowledge of our stream resources.

Today, you have in front of you a decision on additional stream prescriptions to meet a cold water standard that you know is arbitrary and based on ideological beliefs, not science. Ripstream studies have shown these streams to be already cold, with other studies indicating that small changes in temperature due to logging to neither negatively impact fish nor cause cumulative downstream impacts. No fish have been shown to be harmed, and it appears that the political agenda of EPA and special environmental interests are driving this discussion, not proven harm to streams, fish or habitat.

Miami is classified as a "private industrial" landowner in the Department's Decision Matrix. We are not some remote and rarified corporate entity. I work with our foresters daily; I know all of my contractors and most of their employees on a first name basis. Taking lands and timber from Miami without merit robs the family I work for and steals resources from Oregon workers, ones that I have to look in the eye and have hard conversations about their jobs. Please do not underestimate the impacts of your decisions on real people's lives.

It is easy for Department, federal agencies and special interests to offer up lands and timber that do not belong to them. For Oregon's timber communities, these forests are our home, livelihood and future which will be defended vigorously if taken without compensation or merit. As Oregonians, we do not have the option of converting our lands to recreation and housing developments like neighboring states when lands are taken by governmental actions – we made a forest land use zoning pact with all Oregonians and your decision should be based on science and what is right for Oregon, not California or Washington. It is my recommendation that the Board strongly consider the prescriptions put forth by the Regional Forest Practices Committees, OFIC, and AOL. These are all science based and seem to meet the actual level of changes indicated by the problem in front of you. I appreciate your work on this issue and allowing me time for my testimony.