

**BOARD OF FORESTRY**  
**April 27, 2016**  
**Testimony of Dave Kunert**  
**Division Forester – Tillamook/Warrenton**

Chair Imeson, State Forest Decker, and Board of Forestry members, welcome to Tillamook. For the record, my name is Dave Kunert and I am a resident of Tillamook County and a Forester for Hampton Lumber, an Oregon-based family owned forest products company. We have a mill just a few blocks from here where we employ approximately 200 people (We are the seventh largest employer in the County). Like our Warrenton and Willamina sawmills, the one here in town receives a substantial percentage of its raw material needs from State of Oregon timber sales.

Our Tillamook sawmill is currently running at about 60 percent of its production capacity due to the limited availability of raw material. If adequate raw material was available, additional family wage jobs would be created at our sawmill, and local loggers would be hired to harvest those raw materials. Those are very real local jobs for people living right here in Tillamook County that could have an immensely meaningful impact on this community's economy.

I understand the concept behind GPV (or the 3 legged stool as it is sometimes referred to). Tillamook County has a social fabric that relies on the economy generated from timber harvest. This economy is what affords our citizens the opportunity to recreate in the surrounding State Forest. The people I work with are avid outdoorsmen who enjoy camping, hiking, fishing and hunting. We love this way of life. It's more than a job – it's a lifestyle for the people of Tillamook County.

However, the recreational opportunities don't pay the bills in this county. The economy generated from timber harvest keeps roofs over our heads, clothes on our backs and food in our bellies. Timber revenue also pays for the essential services we depend on, including public safety, education, medical clinics and roads, just to name a few.

As a forester and resident, I spend a significant amount of time in this State Forest. These state owned forests in Tillamook County are productive forestlands with great tree growing potential. Hampton has managed its timberlands in Northwest Oregon for many years and our management experience from those lands clearly shows that current harvest levels from these State Forests are well below their sustainable potential.

As a member of the timber industry, I am excited about the green building initiatives and the advent of new technologies surrounding building with wood as a healthy alternative to steel and concrete. It's pretty cool to think of Oregon as a major player in producing sustainable solutions across the world. We are excited to be positioned right here in Tillamook, where we can work with partners like ODF and other industry leaders to provide those resources, sustainably. We should all be excited about the future of this industry and our ability to be a global leader.

I am not certain why we have to get so caught up in the politics of this issue. Were these lands not deeded to the State for the purpose of managing them on behalf of the counties? As far as I'm aware that relationship has never changed. There is no question that we can sustainably increase harvest levels and simultaneously enhance conservation outcomes. In so doing, the

full measure of the desired (and required) economic and social outcomes of the GPV rule can be achieved.

As we all drive out to learn about campgrounds, trails and museums tomorrow, take a look at the community right here in Tillamook. Forestry and agriculture are our lifeblood. We live, play, and work here. We raise our families here. We're proud to be connected to the land so closely. We don't see any of this as being an "either or" outcome. We remain convinced that with predictable and sustainable increases in harvest levels from our state-owned timberlands, we can achieve the elusive "AND-AND" solution we all seek - we can, and should, have both timber revenue and environmental conservation. To that end, I remain optimistic that we can find a solution that would keep Tillamook and other rural communities healthy for years to come. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I look forward to further discussions on our tour tomorrow.