

April 27, 2016

Chair Imeson, State Forester Decker, Members of the Board,

My name is Randall Koch and I am here as a 35 year citizen of Tillamook County. I live on Slab Creek in south Tillamook County, adjacent to Cascade Head. I am retired, but have worked in the non-profit sector of our local economy; as executive director of Sitka Center for Art and Ecology for 15 years, as development director at Neskowin Valley School for 5 years and as development coordinator at Food Roots for two years.

I would like to voice my concern that the Chair of the Council of Forest **Trust** Land Counties, Tim Josi asked Chris Smith to leave a public meeting at which a quorum of the FTLAC was present. The public owns these lands and in a public meeting all may listen and at times testify to help in understanding and providing guidance in decision-making. This is a grave concern and puts into question the integrity and transparency of the FTLAC.

I also want to comment on the value of a balanced approach to management of the forest that is being identified as a key revenue source for our and other counties. While it is true that for many decades our county relied heavily on the timber industry to process our forests for products to use and sell to the greater marketplace, the world continues to change and these revenue sources need to play a lesser not greater role in sustaining the needs of the county. The county needs a diversity of revenue sources including bringing more people into these forests for hunting, fishing and recreation. This forest has to reflect the diversity of revenue sourcing and emphasize its health, not be cut to a standard that is diminishing the resource of a healthy ecosystem as demonstrated by the private timber industry.

When Gifford Pinchot stated he felt that the forests should yield “the greatest good for the greatest number”, he did not mean the number to mean the greatest amount of money. Although he wanted a yield of harvestable timber, he also wanted to sustain the forest as a resource to serve the “greatest number” of people.

The FTLAC has the opportunity to provide a model for how to manage a diverse forest. I endorse the testimony of the North Coast State Forest Coalition.

- ❖ Our communities are clear beneficiaries of timber tax receipts that come from harvested state forests but we wish to emphasize the other critical values that come from a balanced management approach to these public forests.
 - Diversity of fish and wildlife dependent on mixed forest stands and landscapes
 - Clean drinking water for our communities

- Carbon sequestration to mitigate for our consumption of fossil fuels
 - Hiking, biking, fishing and hunting opportunities that diversify our rural economies
 - A quality of life that all Oregonians deserve to enjoy.
- ❖ As volunteer stewards in restoration projects throughout the county, the return of wild salmon to our watersheds is an important part of our quality of life. Without a diverse, healthy forest ecosystem, salmon cannot provide the keystone species qualities that benefit our dependent fish and wildlife.



Randall Koch
Neskowin