

Dear Board of Forestry,

It is my understanding that Commissioner Josi will be testifying on behalf of the FTLAC to advocate for logging more on Publicly Owned Forest Lands. As a resident of Tillamook County and an active member of the community, I am disturbed by the destruction of natural resources for short-term profits. Logging is not a sustainable way to fund the government or anything else. Timber has always been subject to rapid price swings and boom-bust cycles that plague all commodity markets. In recent years, Oregon timber is becoming less economically valuable and viable due to competition from tropical tree farming operations and other changes in the global timber market. The answer is not to log more but to log less and invest in alternative forest development strategies, as well as alternative ways to fund the government.

The value of Oregon forests is not represented by its cash value after intensive logging. Forests provide much more than just timber. They provide recreation areas, hunting, fishing, clean water, stable hillsides and much more. Liquidating such a valuable resource is a disservice to everyone involved including the long-term viability of those industries associated with logging. Please consider the impact on clean water, fisheries, and health when considering Greatest Permanent Value. Please do not accept a plan to clear-cut more than is already being clear-cut and consider the impact on local residents, other industries, and the environment when making your decisions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jacob Van Buskirk
Tillamook County Resident