



OREGON STATE SENATE

To: Tom Imeson
Chair, Oregon Board of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

Cc: Richard Whitman, Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Jason Miner, Natural Resources Policy Manager, Governor Kate Brown

Re: Updating Oregon Forest Practices Water Protection Rules in the Siskiyou Region

Date: May 30, 2019

Dear Chair Imeson:

I understand that on June 5th the Oregon Board of Forestry will consider revisions to the Siskiyou Region's rules around forest practices and water protections pursuant to the guidelines established in the Protecting Cold Water criteria (PCW). In 2015 the EPA found the rules regarding streamside forest buffers inadequate to meet the requirements outlined in the PCW. While the Board took steps to address this issue in 2015, the Siskiyou Region was excluded from these new protections. I am asking the Board of Forestry to amend the current rules to ensure adequate environmental protection and compliance with the PCW.

The Siskiyou Region includes approximately 1 million acres of the Rogue watershed, which supports threatened coho salmon and includes many small and medium fish-bearing streams which are threatened by habitat degradation and elevated stream temperatures. I cannot overstate the economic and social value of the salmon and of water-based recreation in my district. These interests are protected by water quality standards and appropriate forestry practices.

I ask the Board of Forestry to enact water and forestry rules for the Siskiyou Region that provide appropriate water quality standards which comply with the PCW and ensure protection for vital species and resources throughout the region.

Thank you for your consideration and attention on this issue.



Senator Jeff Golden
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