

To the Oregon Smoke Management Review Committee 12/18/17

On behalf of my immediate and extended family I would like to voice my support for the increased use of prescribed fire in Oregon forests to help control our devastating wild fires. Obviously these prescribed burns must be conducted in a safe and efficient manner and the results must be monitored and shown to reduce our uncontrolled fire risk and total overall smoke each year.

In conjunction with this effort we need to develop a public awareness of how communities and individuals can protect themselves from short term smoke. And if we need to adjust our state smoke policy to allow more short term smoke we should do so.

My family came to Oregon in the late 1850s and has been involved in logging and agriculture throughout the state since our arrival. When I started working in the woods in western Oregon, the loggers would burn their slash every fall. This obviously created some heavy smoke briefly in isolated areas but I don't remember having the long periods of dense smoke we currently get. With our current climate and historic excessive forest fuel loading, our present wildfire problem is not going away. We must actively protect ourselves and prescribed burning is one necessary component of this effort.

Thank you

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