

MESSERLE & SONS

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Oral Testimony before DEQ Public Hearing

February 3, 2011
Coos Bay City Hall
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Dave Messerle. I am representing Messerle & Sons. We are a 4th generation family held corporation with non-industrial forestlands in the Coos and Coquille timbersheds. I am a member of the Society of American Foresters. We also have membership in Oregon Small Woodlands Association and Associated Oregon Loggers. We have Oregon Professional Logger certification through A.O.L. and our tree farm is certified sustainable through the American Tree Farm System and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (S.F.I.).

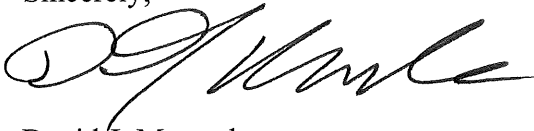
My message to you today is that we believe all water quality issues with respect to forestlands should remain under the auspices of the Oregon Forest Practices Act and ORS 527.770. We believe that the OR. Dept. of Forestry through the Oregon Forest Practices Act has very ably protected and enhanced the water quality of streams within the forest. The Dept. of Forestry in co-operation with the Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, local Watershed Associations, land owners and other entities, both governmental and private, have made much progress in maintaining and improving water quality conditions in our timberlands. Basically, things look good on the tree farms. "If it ain't broke, don't mess with it".

Nothing is to be gained by adding another level of regulation on an industry that is already struggling in very difficult economic times. More regulation always means more cost for the landowner to be in compliance. These costs are not always purely economic, but can include attitude changes, whereby a land owner could say, "It's just not any longer in my best interests to keep this land as timberland". We can then expect to see premature harvests and land changes to non-timber development.

Also I'm not sure that our state government should be expanding agency roles at a time when they are looking at billion dollar deficits. If in fact, the Federal Clean Water Act requires that we revisit our forest water quality, let's do that under current laws and regulations within the Oregon Forest Practices and the Oregon Dept. of Forestry.

Finally, our company also owns agriculture lands, on which we graze cattle. These same thoughts could also apply to the OR. Dept. of Agriculture and Senate Bill 1010. Agricultural environmental concerns need to stay within the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture oversight.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Messerle", written in a cursive style.

David J. Messerle
President
Messerle & Sons