

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

April 15, 1999 Hearing Room D

8:30 a.m. Tape 46

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rep. Larry Wells, Chair

Rep. Terry Thompson, Vice-Chair

Rep. Jeff Kropf, Vice-Chair

Rep. Roger Beyer

Rep. Ryan Deckert

Rep. Jim Hill

Rep. Elaine Hopson

Rep. Jerry Krummel

Rep. Judy Uherbelau

**MEMBER EXCUSED:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** B. Harrison Conley, Administrator

Samantha Demchak, Administrative Support

**MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:** Informational Meeting-Proposed Forest Practices Ballot Measure

**HB 3496 Work Session**

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
<b>TAPE 46, A</b>		
003	Chair	Opens public hearing at 8:40 a.m.

	Wells	
<b><u>PROPOSED FOREST PRACTICES BALLOT MEASURE INITIATIVE</u></b>		
025	Aaron Rappaport	Sierra Club. Presents testimony explaining why many citizens view a ballot initiative as a welcome and necessary step towards improving forest practices on private timberlands in Oregon ( <b>EXHIBIT A</b> ).
079	Tom Giesen	Coordinator, Respect Our Resources (ROR). Presents testimony. Presents slide show showing the degraded condition of some of Oregon's public resources ( <b>EXHIBIT B &amp; C</b> ).
130	Giesen	Notes public safety must be protected, and our natural heritage must be restored.
180	Giesen	Continues that plantation forestry can cause problems with the spread of disease among plants.
240	Rep. Kropf	Asks if the photos in the slide show are private or county roads.
245	Giesen	Indicates they are both private and county roads.
295	Giesen	Adds that between 40 and 80 years into the growth of a forest the light begins to reach the bottom of the forest floor.
350	Rep. Beyer	Asks if the roads in the slides are paved.
371	Giesen	Responds that some were paved.
375	Rep. Beyer	Asks whose property the roads are on.
382	Giesen	Notes most were on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property.
419	Rep. Beyer	Asks about any disincentives.
426	Giesen	Responds that is not being discussed at this time.
<b>TAPE 47, A</b>		
015	Rep. Beyer	Asks if Giesen believes in private property rights.
019	Giesen	Responds yes.
025	Rep. Beyer	Indicates it is a good idea to have trees fall into streams and lakes.
030	Giesen	Agrees that large woody debris is desirable. Notes the shading of the water is also desirable. Notes the trees need to be standing to provide shade.

045	Rep. Beyer	Asks about a tour in the Elliot State Forest
052	Giesen	Indicates he is not familiar with that tour.
057	Rep. Beyer	Asks why the streams were cleaned out.
069	Giesen	Notes that is just something that was done at the time.
074	Rep. Krummel	Asks how the age of the forest is determined.
079	Giesen	Responds it is done through "increment borings." Adds "increment borings" are samples taken by drilling a hole in the tree and counting the rings.
084	Rep. Krummel	Asks about diversity of the forests in the slides.
088	Giesen	Responds he does not know the exact history of the forest.
093	Chair Wells	Indicates that the forest was planted.
097	Rep. Krummel	Asks how the management of the forest will affect the low income housing in our area.
104	Giesen	Responds that the cost of lumber is just a small part of the cost of construction. Adds the cost of construction is affected more by the interest rate.
125	Giesen	Continues the ballot initiative would revise the forest practices of the Oregon Department of Forestry Practices and Forest Practices Association practices. Indicates thinning would be allowed. Adds not disturbing the forest floor is very important.
204	Giesen	Adds unstable slopes can be protected by using disincentives for deep cutting.
237	Giesen	States road repair is an essential part of water, soil and fish protection.
280	Giesen	Notes incentives could be offered for people who protect natural resources.
285	Rep. Hill	Asks for a definition of public resources.
289	Giesen	Responds air, water, fish, wildlife and soil preservation are public resources.
294	Rep. Hill	Asks if there is a balance between a single tree and the use of public resources.
300	Giesen	Answers it is in the combined total that the single tree matters.

303	Rep. Hill	Asks how the incentives will be applied.
310	Giesen	Answers the Department of Revenue will administer the funds.
325	Rep. Hill	Suggests that money issues be worked out before this becomes a ballot initiative.
338	Giesen	Notes tax attorneys have already been contacted.
362	George Hutchinson	Notes ROR is researching all aspects of the forest practices issue.
<b><u>TAPE 46, B</u></b>		
008	Rep. Uherbelau	Notes she is concerned about using the money from penalties in the incentive program. Asks where funds will come from once fines are no longer being paid.
030	Giesen	Responds that this is meant to be flexible. Adds this will be revenue neutral.
041	Rep. Beyer	Asks if Hutchinson or Giesen have ever sold lumber.
043	Giesen	Answers no.
049	Rep. Beyer	Notes many mills will no longer accept large logs.
055	Giesen	Responds that the timber market is highly volatile.
064	Rep. Beyer	Notes an 80 year old tree is much larger than a young tree.
072	Giesen	Notes the disincentives are not meant for thinning. Adds thinning will help with the soil compaction
084	Rep. Krummel	Asks how many board feet are in an acre
088	Giesen	Notes it is impossible to determine.
092	Rep. Krummel	Notes it will be a greater benefit to timber owner to cut the lumber rather than let the forest grow.
108	Giesen	States there are just under 20 thousand board feet in an acre.
121	Rep. Beyer	Clarifies there are 30-40 thousand board feet per acre.
127	Rep. Krummel	Asks about the natural use of fires to manage forests.

132	Giesen	Notes there is organic material left after a fire. Emphasis clear-cutting removes all organic material.
143	Rep. Krummel	Asks why forest fires burn in patches.
146	Giesen	Notes fire on natural landscape is still puzzling.
160	Rep. Hill	Asks if this initiative is to put a fine on timber owners so they can not harvest the timber.
172	Giesen	Responds that there is no intention in this initiative other than extend rotation ages.
182	Rep. Hill	Asks about timber market disincentives.
190	Giesen	Responds that the disincentives will be balanced with the incentives. Notes a private owner would not cut down trees if it was not economically workable. Adds an economic consulting firm will be hired to look at all aspects of the initiative.
239	Chair Wells	Asks how this initiative will be sold to the public.
249	Giesen	States that "what you see is what you get." Notes real timber should be grown which is what Oregon is good at.
271	Hutchinson	States he first became concerned when he noticed a checkerboard pattern while flying over Oregon's forests. Notes the pattern was created by clear-cutting. Notes there are both men and women involved in trying to get this initiative on the ballot.
321	Hutchinson	Notes Oregonians need to take an interest in the natural resources in our own backyards.
370	Hutchinson	Indicates now is the time to act. States it is time to save our forests.
<b>TAPE 47, B</b>		
005	Rep. Hill	Asks why the forest practices issue was not brought to the Legislature.
011	Hutchinson	Notes ROR asked to come here and present the information. Indicates the committee's criticism has merit and will be considered seriously.
028	Rappaport	Notes there are processes in Oregon described as forest practices reform. Adds most Oregonians think those ideas will fail.
040	Rep. Thompson	Indicates there is concern about a blanket approach to this initiative. States it is tough to deal with broad-base issues.
068	Giesen	Notes that the economics are such that Oregon has an economic driven forestry. Indicates the need for diversity and this initiative promotes that.

081	Rep. Beyer	Asks if the Sierra Club supported Measure 64.
088	Hutchinson	Notes some members were active in gathering signatures. Notes no money was given in support.
096	Chair Wells	Closes hearing on the Proposed Forest Practices Ballot Measure Initiative. Opens work session on HB 3496.
<b><u>HB 3496 WORK SESSION</u></b>		
159	Chair Wells	Discusses -1 amendments to HB 3496.
166	Rep. Uherbelau	Asks why such a low fee is being charged to non-residents.
172	Rep. Kropf	Indicates the non-residents are paying a fee to hunt on private land.
178	Rep. Wells	<b>MOTION: Moves to ADOPT HB 3496-1 amendments date  4/14/99.</b>
		<b>VOTE: 9-0</b>
180	Chair Wells	<b>Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.</b>
182	Rep. Hill	<b>MOTION: Moves HB 3496 to the floor with a  DO PASS AS AMENDED  recommendation.</b>
		<b>VOTE: 9-0</b>  <b>AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.</b>
	Chair Wells	<b>The motion CARRIES.</b>

		<b>REP. LUNDQGUIST will lead discussion on the floor.</b>
190	Chair Wells	Closes work session on HB 3496. Adjourns hearing at 10:20 a.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Samantha Demchak, B. Harrison Conley,  
Administrative Support Administrator

**EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

- A - Forest Practices Ballot Initiative, written testimony, Aaron Rappaport, 3 pp.**
- B - Forest Practices Ballot Initiative, written testimony, Tom Giesen, 2 pp.**
- C - Forest Practices Ballot Initiative, photograph, Tom Giesen, 1 p.**