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November 22 2017

To: Representative Ken Helm, Chair, Work Group on Agriculture, Forests, Fisheries, Rural Communities, Tribes, members of the Work Group & Senator Michael Dembrow

Re: SB 1070

No greenhouse gas management policy can be considered comprehensive if it neglects to account for the immense carbon emissions generated by the timber industry and the long-term reduction in carbon sequestration and storage associated with the destruction of ecosystems through industrial logging. As you work to establish the state's policies regarding carbon emissions reduction, we urge you to mandate the strongest possible accountability from the timber industry.

For each tree that is commercially logged, approximately **only 15% of its carbon is stored in wood products**, and the remainder is released into the atmosphere immediately, rather than via the slow decay of natural mortality. In a recent report by the Center for Sustainable Economy, the GEOS Institute and Oregon Wild titled "Clearcutting our Carbon Accounts", the authors highlight that logging has recently been found to be the highest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon.

The climate impact of industrial logging cannot be understated. Even in a forest fire 70-80% of carbon remains in its organic form to be reincorporated into soils and vegetation.

Please scrutinize any mechanisms recommended to utilize forest lands as carbon offsets and the **"carbon debt" created by clearcutting and thinning forests**. Harvesting trees transfers most of the carbon to the atmosphere leaving a "carbon debt" that takes the growing young forest *centuries* to repay. Any legislation with goals set for the next 10-50 years cannot allow for industrial logging to continue business as usual.

Under this Federal administration's targeting of public lands for more intensive resource extraction, it is imperative that state and private lands be held to the highest standard of ecologically sound management that aims to build and protect ecosystems and our regional climate resiliency.

As the Oregon Global Warming Commission evolves the rules and procedures for accounting of the state's carbon emissions, please keep in mind that industry is not a reliable source of information regarding the negative impacts of commercial and industrial activities. Community, environmental, and scientific perspectives must have consistent and meaningful input in the development of the Commissions goals and mechanisms. The influence of industry on the Commission must be transparent and metered.

Undoubtedly, many of your constituents are concerned with the blank check to emit under which the timber industry currently operates. Nearly 5,000 of Bark's membership resides in Sen. Dembrow's district and are engaged with our year-round work to call attention to the the climate consequences of industrial forestry.

We hope you will work to elevate the importance of regulating the timber industry's carbon emissions in any state-wide policy which aims to address climate change, especially those policies which could help the state maximize the reduction of carbon emissions in the next 10-35 years.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Sadowsky".

Rob Sadowsky, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Rae".

Courtney Rae, Community Organizer