



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
PAUL HOLVEY**

HOUSE DISTRICT 8

Rep.PaulHolvey@oregonlegislature.gov

March 4, 2022

To: Tim Sekerak
Chief Clerk
Oregon House of Representatives

Vote Explanation on SB 1546(B)

I completely support the goal of cementing public ownership of the Elliott State Forest and in that process protecting critical habitats and creating a world-class research forest.

I voted **no** on SB 1546B because I am gravely concerned with the lack of guidance on the composition of the Elliott State Research Forest Authority and the board. I cannot support this boards lack of accountability to ensure the best interest of the public will be served.

Though Oregon State University (OSU) has outstanding professors and staff, I continue to be concerned about questions of ethics around The OSU College of Forestry and the forest industry's influence on their leadership. That concern comes from the College's past forest management decisions, including the old-growth harvesting in the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest and their seemingly complicit positions on Oregon Forest Resource Institute's (OFRI) misleading information campaign to sway public opinion and legislative policy; as detailed in Secretary of State's performance audit from 2021. SB 1546B provides little assurance that the Elliott State Forest management plan will adequately consider the future carbon sequestration value to the state and won't be overly focused on generating revenue from tree harvesting.

Although I appreciate the work in developing SB 1546B, I could not be supportive of this major legislation due to the lack of legislative discussion and input in the House of Representatives before passage in the 35-day 2022 legislative session.

I again restate I do support the goal of public ownership of the Elliott State Forest but needed to express these concerns with my vote.

Paul Holvey
Oregon State Representative
House District 8