



## OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

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Oregon State Legislature

### PRESS RELEASE

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### **Forest Environmental Protections Agreement Approved by Senate**

*Senate Bill 1501 will protect our environment, shape conservation for years ahead*

SALEM – Today, the Senate approved [Senate Bill 1501](#) on a vote of 22 to 5. This legislation updates provisions of the Oregon Forest Practices Act, which governs logging activity on private forestlands.

“This bill is a gift from leaders of the timber industry, small woodland owners and the environmental community who worked long and hard to find a path away from the timber wars that have tortured our state for half a lifetime,” said [Senator Jeff Golden](#) (D-Ashland), Chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery, who carried Senate Bill 1501 on the Senate floor. “It’s a huge gift—not just a blueprint for the best use of the forests we depend on for so many values, but a reminder that it’s within our reach to begin reversing the divides that have become so deep.”

“This bill should also be a reminder to all of us that by working together, even from completely opposing points of view, there is no limit to what we can accomplish for Oregonians,” said [Senator Rachel Armitage](#) (D-Scappoose), who spoke in support of Senate Bill 1501 on the Senate floor.

First enacted by the legislature in 1971, the Oregon Forest Practices Act establishes standards for all commercial logging activities on Oregon’s forestland, including building and maintaining roads, harvesting, applying pesticides, and replacing harvested trees. Senate Bill 1602 from the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Session of 2020 required the Governor to facilitate mediation sessions between forest industry and environmental interest representatives on changes to the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

Senate Bill 1501 extends from those discussions and includes various provisions to improve forest management including improved stream buffers, forest road maintenance, erosion prevention, protections for aquatic habitats, compliance monitoring and other policies to strengthen conservation efforts.

Senate Bill 1501 now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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