

2/16/2022

Re: E2SHB 1117 Senate Housing & Local Government Committee Hearing

Madam Chair & Members of the Committee:

I'm Ken Miller, a small family forest owner representing myself and I believe a lot of other SFLOs who are already doing far more than their fair share in support of Salmon, simply by keeping our lands forested.

I'm certainly not against helping Salmon and I practice "net ecological gain" every single day! Everyone wants more out of rural landowners but to be candid we are not feeling the respect & appreciation for the public benefits we already provide.

As written this bill risks further watering down and creating ever more obstacles to the 1999 Forests and Fish legislation intended to help keep small landowners managing forestlands. The legislature could help Salmon more by fully funding programs like: the Forest Riparian Easement Program; and especially the Family Forest Fish Passage Program - both of which are well designed but largely unfunded. The ideals of this bill are good, but it's not ready for enactment in my opinion.

The Growth Management Act took many of our property rights without compensation, under the guise of slowing urban sprawl, and with the goal of building UP rather than out. We don't find that the city folks did their part of this grand bargain. How does this bill address critical needs for affordable housing? Anyone with vacant land gets multiple and attractive purchase offers in the mail weekly – this bill further dis-incentivizes those of us trying to keep our lands forested – and is counter-productive to the intent of this bill long term.

The unintended consequences of this bill language could easily hurt Salmon more than help. Thank you for listening.

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