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March 2, 2021

Board of Natural Resources
c/o Commissioner Hilary Franz-Chair
MS47000 Olympia, WA 98504-7000

RE: Pressure to Stop Timber Harvest on State Trust Lands – Where will we get the lumber we need?

Dear Commissioner Franz and Members of the Board:

The Port of Port Angeles is a beneficiary of revenues generated from DNR trust lands. We have been deeply involved in DNR's multi-year process related to the marbled murrelet and the sustainable harvest calculation over concerns of reduced future harvests. Reductions in DNR timber harvests greatly impacts our community far beyond the challenges of decreased revenue for junior taxing districts. The loss of living wage jobs is of critical concern, as well as the domino effect of the flow of logs and fiber within the very complex and integrated local forest products industry in our community.

The policy position the Board of Natural Resources takes on any particular timber sale, is a statement of policy that could be applied to other timber sales. Trust lands were set aside to be managed for the benefit of junior taxing districts to provide revenue to support their services to the community. These trust lands were set aside to be working forests. They are the only public working forest lands for these junior taxing districts. There are many other lands at both the state and federal level for habitat and recreation.

If the Board makes a policy decision that there is a higher and better use for a specific timber parcel, than continuing its use as working forest lands, then the Board should invest in a comparable timber parcel for that junior taxing district. It not fair to ask a junior taxing district to bear the full cost for a social or ecological value by removing its revenue source used to provide much needed community services.

There are many regulations that ensure working forests are sustainably managed. Working forests reduce wildfire risk and keep forests healthy. Constructing buildings out of wood is sustainable and more ecologically friendly than constructing them out of steel and cement. I ask you to consider this question:

***Where will we get enough sustainably harvested wood for lumber
if we continue to find reasons not to harvest the very lands that were set aside as working forests?***

Thank you for your consideration,

Karen F. Goschen, Executive Director
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