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November 7, 2008

Calvin Mukumoto, Acting Chair  
Oregon Board of Forestry  
2600 State Street  
Salem, OR 97310

RE: FPA regulation of poplar grown on agricultural sites after 12 years

Dear Mr. Mukumoto:

GreenWood Resources supports the staff recommendation before you today on hybrid poplar and are asking that you support it as well. As you know, the recommendation implements the new authority granted the Board of Forestry in HB 3628, which passed the legislature last February, in the 2008 special session. That legislation represents a compromise between GreenWood Resources, the Oregon Forest Industries Council, the Small Woodlands Association, and the Oregon Farm Bureau. Those parties worked for the better part of 2 years to come to agreement on that legislation. Since that time we have worked diligently with the staff at the Forestry Department on the recommendation.

The market for poplar products has expanded. The GreenWood Tree Farm Fund has recently built a new mill on our site in Boardman with our partners at the Collins Companies. This effort is creating 100 new jobs in a rural area of the state.

Because of this market expansion, there is a need to extend the rotations beyond the current statutory 12 year agriculture definition. Poplar is grown on land long classified as agricultural and has been exempt from the Forest Practices Act as such. We currently anticipate a 12 to 15 year rotation. To allow some flexibility in the future, we are requesting regulatory clarification when growing poplar on a 13 to 20 year rotation and have agreed to come under the FPA for rotations 13 or greater years, as outlined in the staff recommendation. Greenwood Resources is committed to environmental stewardship, and our poplar plantations are FSC certified. At the same time, poplar are still grown on the same land as before and we agree with the Forestry Department that there are some elements of the FPA that simply do not make sense and/or simply provide no valuable resource protection when applied to poplar plantations. Those areas are reflected in the recommendation as areas where FPA requirements could be waved (using the new statutory authority) and included under a stewardship agreement. We believe this proposal represents a reasonable balance between resource protection and efficient and effective poplar operations.

Again, we support the staff recommendation, and ask that you do as well.

Sincerely,

Don Rice

Director of Resource Management  
GreenWood Resources

Cc: Oregon Board of Forestry Members

AGENDA ITEM D  
Attachment 7  
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