

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
BUDGET  
ENVIRONMENT AND  
PUBLIC WORKS  
FOREIGN RELATIONS

April 10, 2017

Chair Brian Clem  
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Clem and members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee,

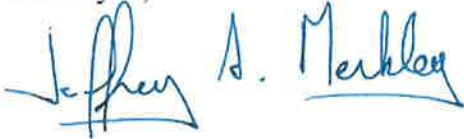
We would like to lend our support to House Bill 3151. Sudden Oak Death is a very serious problem for Oregon. Currently, we are co-convening a Task Force composed of stakeholders from the public, private and civic sectors to take a collective approach to containing the NAI pathogen and eradicating the EU 1 pathogen. The EU 1 strain is particularly dangerous in that it affects conifers and is only found in Curry County in the United States.

If we had taken swift action ten years ago we would not be in the position we are today. If we only sustain the current level of investment to contain and eradicate these diseases, the scientific community estimates that it will reach the Port of Coos Bay in eight years or less. This has the potential to devastate the economy of the south coast.

Together we are pressing for all the funding we can get from the federal government. But we know we can't rely on the federal government alone, particularly when the president's budget proposes massive cuts. That is why it is essential that the state steps up to the plate to help fund this urgent issue.

We ask for your support of HB 3151.

Thank you,



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



David Brock Smith  
State Representative