Regional

Fallout continues on logging ban

Top Democrats oppose party's old growth stand

more political fallout Wednesday from the Oregon Democratic Party's weekend call for a ban on logging of trees in old growth forests, with more Democratic officeholders criticizing the move

Two top Democrats in the Legislature. House Majority Leader Carl Hosticka of Eugene and Senate Majority Leader Bill Bradbury of Bandon, issued a joint statement calling the stance "extreme and irrespon-

A spokesman for Gov. Neil Goldschmidt said his boss thinks the Democrats' call for a ban on old growth logging was a "kneejerk" reaction to a diffi-

And state Rep. Bill Dwyer, D-Springfield, called for a change in rules governing the state party's conventions to avoid such 'shenanigans' in the future.

Delegates to the Democratic Party's platform convention adopted the resolution in Seaside last weekend after supporters said Democrats need to take a strong stand to protect the dwindling number of old growth trees

Since then, various Democratic officeholders have tried to distance themselves from the platform. They said a ban on old growth logging would cost the state thousands of timber

industry jobs. Hosticka and Bradbury, in a letter to state Democratic Chairman Wayne Anderson, said old growth timber is a difficult issue but that the Democrats' adoption of the resolution calling for a logging ban "is akin to curing the disease while killing the patient.

'As Democratic elected officials, we understand the critical importance of the timber industry in Oregon - especially in many areas where it is virtually the only employer." they

While Democrats remain committed to protecting the state's precious natural resources. "we will never forget that the Democratic Party is the party of the working man and woman." Hosticka and Bradbury said

Goldschmidt spokesman Lee Weinstein said the governor thinks Democrats made a mistake in adopting the resolution.

"He believes we need a rational approach to forest planning, not a kneejerk reaction. Weinstein said. "Men and women across Oregon are dependent on jobs in our forests."

Secretary of State Barbara Roberts, the Democratic candidate for governor, also opposes the resolution, a spokeswoman

Dwyer, meanwhile, said the party should institute tighter quorum and credential requirements for participation in platform conventions "so that all planks reflect mainstream, not extreme, positions

"The party's Rules Committee should immediately investigate ways to prevent such sabotage by issue extremists," the Springfield lawmaker said



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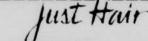
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