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BR: I am not going to vote for the one that is being circulated. I believe it is possible to design one that meets some of the concerns that parents have about the safety of their children ... I think parents have legitimate concerns on that issue in terms of their children's safety. But I think the measure that's designed is far too restrictive.

ODE: What do you think of the scientific study on logging and the spotted owl that proposes 8 million acres of timber be set aside in Oregon, Washington and Northern California?

BR: I'm not a scientist so I can't tell you its accuracy. But I know that in talking to people in Congress, both in Oregon and in other states, that members of Congress consider that to be a highly scientific study with great validity. So I think that the study itself is probably accurate.

The question for Oregon is not so much just the spotted owl, but the question is if there is going to become a supply problem on timber — for whatever reason, whether it's the spotted owl or cutting or exploiting, whatever is causing that supply problem.

Our question in Oregon is not to continue just to fight ... the change in timber supply that now seems inevitable. (The question is) how we prepare in Oregon to deal with the impact on timber-dependent communities and on workers and their families.

If I am a worker living in Springfield ... I care about my house payment, my car payment and I care about my family. What we need to do is to think about how to plan for how we prepare for those workers to be certain that they have jobs.

I think the timber industry can with great validity continue to challenge the spotted owl study ... but if at the same time there's not somebody planning for those people, then Oregon will be like West Virginia coal miners, sitting on welfare for generations ... I don't want Oregon to look like ... West Virginia.

ODE: Then do you support the proposal to ban log exports?

BR: I have been very clear about my opposition to log exports for some time. One out of four logs cut in this state is exported out by ship. If the Japanese or the Koreans own those forests, they would not ship us logs, they would ship us product. And Oregon is shipping out logs and taking away the



Photo by Martin Thiel

Barbara Roberts advocates a ban on log exports, which she believes creates jobs overseas at the expense of Oregon workers.

opportunity for Oregonians to have jobs of those and giving those jobs to people in Japan and Korea and Taiwan. I disapprove of that very strongly.

I think we need to encourage stopping log exports off of state lands and off of federal lands. And I think we need to find ways to encourage those who have private lands, who are also shipping timber out, to stop doing that kind of shipping.

ODE: Do you think a shift from old-growth timber to second-growth is necessary?

BR: I think our mills and our forest products plants will begin to use more and more second-growth. And they are beginning to do that ...

I don't think that it is fair to expect that people coming out of the woods and out of the mills of Oregon are going to become computer operators. If you've worked in the woods for 20 years, you're not going to want to work in an office. But if we can find secondary woodproducts jobs, and if we can use second-growth timber, as another alternative, that's a portion of the answer.

Exports are another portion of the answer. There's no single answer.

Oregon's population will grow dramatically over the next decade. We need people to build houses, to build highways ... we have no shortage of opportunity for good family jobs in Oregon over the next decade.

We've got to match those workers who may eventually lose their timber jobs ... and find those alternative jobs for them. I think we can match those workers and those jobs over the next few years, but not

if we don't begin planning.

ODE: Why should the 18,000 students at the University vote for you?

I think more than any other reason is because I have shown in my public career the courage to take the stands that make positive differences for people and for the state.

I have not been afraid of the hard issues. I have not been afraid to take controversial stands when I believed that they were right for Oregon or when I believed that they were the right civil liberties choices. I have been there, and I have been open and public about my decisions.

I think the last thing people need in Oregon is someone who is wishy-washy or someone who is afraid of tough decisions or tough choices. We need someone who has the courage to lead Oregon and not just stand in the middle of the road, waiting. Oregon can't afford to go backward right now.



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