

**From:** [Luke Omodt](#)  
**To:** [Timber Rulemaking](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)  
**Date:** Thursday, August 25, 2016 12:10:28 PM

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The proposed IDAPA 20.02.14 Rule that would rewrite the manner in which cedar poles are sold from endowment lands is bad for Idaho, anti-free market, and terrible for local schools and communities. This rule does not pass the smell test. As a parent, educator, and citizen of the state of Idaho I remember well when students were able to graduate from our schools and transition directly into good living wage jobs in the timber industry. This is unfortunately no longer the reality for our youth, administrative rules such as this one passed by bureaucrats and un-elected officials is counter-intuitive to producing the greatest profit from our state endowment lands.

Cedar poles bring a higher rate of return than cedar saw logs. A cedar pole has an approximately 33% higher value than a cedar saw log. A saw mill can cut a cedar pole into a saw log and boards; a cedar saw log cannot and will not necessarily meet the requirements to qualify as a cedar pole. Why would any company that uses saw logs that was looking to expand its raw material needs pay the state, and our endowments, cedar pole prices when they could cut that pole into saw logs for a 33% savings? They would not. Businesses are designed to generate profit within their industries. Cedar poles are a unique product that bring one of the highest rates of return to our endowment beneficiaries. This rule will negatively impact revenues generated for the beneficiaries of our endowments.

I strongly urge the land board and all elected officials to oppose IDAPA 20.02.14 on the grounds of not meeting the thresholds mandated by our state Constitution as well as just being poor policy. Our public schools, but more importantly our public school students are worth whatever it takes, this is not the way to get there.

Respectfully,

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Go Badgers!

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