

Submitter: Jesse Young

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB795

Chair Golden and members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support for Senate Bill 795.

The state is no longer fulfilling its side of a deal made decades ago to ACTIVELY manage forestland conveyed to the state to return revenue to the counties who deeded the land.

Instead, the state has increasingly caved to pressure from anti-timber activists and has ignored the economic and social cost to rural Oregon.

And now the state has refused to allow the counties to be part of the drafting and review committees for a Habitat Conservation Plan that will dictate management of state forests for the next 70 years.

New evidence shows the HCP will DEVASTATE county budgets. Recent projections indicate harvest revenues will be over 30% less than the state promised when it started this process.

That means critical public services like fire departments, community colleges, healthcare centers, emergency response, libraries, recreation centers, and K-12 school districts will be left with massive holes in their budgets.

Jewell School district in Clatsop County has said the reduced revenue will mean they have to fire over 90% of their teachers!

It's time for this to end. Give the counties the ability to have their land back and manage it sustainably as a reliable source of revenue for those of us who live in rural Oregon.