

## CLIMATE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT TEAM



## CONSOLIDATED OREGON INDIVISIBLE NETWORK

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Date: February 27, 2023

Via Email TO: Sen. Golden, Chair  
and Senate Committee on Natural Resources

RE: SB 795 written testimony

Dear Members of the Committee:

Please consider the following testimony in **opposition to SB 795**:

I write you as a resident of Bend, Oregon, an Emeritus Professor of Biology, and as member of the Steering Committee of the Climate, Energy, and Environment Team (CEE) of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN). The COIN represents over 45 Indivisible groups in all areas of Oregon.

I believe that SB 795 will make a serious mistake in transferring control of Oregon forests and other lands to local counties. If enacted, county commissioners will be able to issue timber harvest and mineral extraction permits for the sole purpose of garnering revenues, often in violation of State and Federal law. A morass of lawsuits and court injunctions will predictably come from State and Federal regulatory agencies as well as from conservation non-profit organizations.

Our public lands are owned by **all** Oregonians and **all** of us elect state-wide representatives who write regulations that benefit all without regard to artificial county boundaries. Wildlife also does not recognize these boundaries – birds, mammals, insects migrate. Similarly, wildfires cross these artificial lines. For example, forest management practiced by one county can affect the spread of fire to neighboring areas.

Sincerely,

Roger A. Sabbadini, Ph.D.  
Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Biology  
San Diego State University  
3174 NW Quiet River Lane  
Bend, OR 97703-7549  
Cell: 619-787-0570  
[rsabbadini@sdsu.edu](mailto:rsabbadini@sdsu.edu)