

Submitter: Andrew Simrin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, and members of the Committee,

I am a lifelong Oregonian and I love and treasure our public forests for all of the values they provide. I frequently engage with projects occurring on public forests and ground truth timber sale projects across the state. I also engage with the Board of Forestry to show the values beyond timber harvest that our public forests provide for. Timber harvest is not always the greatest value that our forests provide.

HB 3103 prioritizes timber harvest over other values on state forests. HB 3103 requires the state forester to set timber harvest targets by rule. This would stomp on all other plans, policies or directives made by the Board of Forestry. These include policies protecting fish and wildlife habitat, clean water and recreation. HB 3103 undermines the new State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The HCP provides balanced protection for 17 species of salmon and wildlife that are listed under the ESA.

Thank you.