

Submitter: Laura Schick

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3103 and its amendments. As a concerned citizen, I believe this timber industry legislation would seriously undermine our state's forest habitat conservation efforts. If passed, HB 3103 would prioritize timber harvesting above all other forest values -- effectively overriding essential policies protecting wildlife habitat, water quality, and recreational opportunities that our communities rely on. This bill would also undermine the State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan that currently protects 17 endangered and threatened species. By prohibiting the Oregon Department of Forestry from implementing this conservation plan until federal approval, which could be delayed indefinitely, the bill would allow destructive clearcuts in vital habitat areas. Additionally, HB 3103 would prevent implementation of the Climate Change and Carbon Plan adopted in 2021, compromising our state's leadership in climate-smart forestry practices.

Instead of moving forward with HB 3103, we must focus on legislation that enhances carbon storage in our state forests and protects our natural resources for future generations. We have a responsibility to steward our forests and manage them to protect everyone's interests, not just timber production.

Please vote against this bill and prevent it from advancing out of committee. Thank you.