

Submitter: Andrew Ehlert

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 oppose House Bill 3103 and its amendments. This timber industry bill undermines the state forest habitat conservation plan and would result in more clearcuts, and less habitat for salmon and wildlife, and threaten the quality of our watersheds. The economics of forest resources is backwards. The monetary value of a forest only measured in board-feet of lumber ignores the reality of the importance of the clean water coming out of the forest watersheds. In our modern economics, clean water is considered infinite and has zero value. Nothing could be further from reality. Clean water is increasingly rare and is essential for all life on earth. imagine the cost of filtering water for a million people. Clean water is more important than anything coming out of the forest.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would protect forest watersheds for our children and future generations.

Please don't let this bill pass out of committee!

Sincerely,

Andrew Ehlert