

Submitter: Stephen Fuller Rowell

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

As a former organic farmer, I believe that it is hubris to think that one can legislate harvest levels of an agricultural crop such as timber (as it is presently cultivated in the State Forests of Oregon). Temperature, rainfall, and other climate variables are ever-changing and will become even less predictable in the future.

HB 3103 as amended may conflict with an effective Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The HCP is required to secure Incidental Take Permits (ITPs). HB 3103 as amended also attempts to give the State Forester authority to interpret any conflict with Federal requirements. Without ITPs, more of the resources of the Oregon Department of Forestry and the resources of taxpayers will be needed to defend against future litigation.

Section 16 of HB 3103 as written will drastically limit standing. Those benefitting from the board foot value of timber will be favored; Those benefitting from all the many other values of State Forests will be side-lined.

Finally, the discretion of the Board of Forestry and of our next State Forester will be severely limited by HB 3103. This may have the effect of discouraging otherwise qualified candidates from applying for the position and limit the applicant pool available to fill this vital role.

Thank you.

Stephen Fuller-Rowell