

Submitter: Pradeep Sivakumar

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3103, which directs the State Forester to establish sustainable harvest levels for harvesting timber on state forestland. While the intention of sustainable harvesting may sound reasonable, the reality is that this bill will force the Department of Forestry to log our public forests at reckless and unsustainable levels.

Oregonians expect their leaders to stand up for our environment, not cave to the demands of timber executives seeking bigger profits. Our state forests are a precious resource meant to serve all of us, providing clean water, habitat for wildlife, recreational opportunities, and a legacy for future generations. Logging at the levels proposed by HB 3103 threatens to undermine these vital functions.

The health of our forests is intrinsically linked to the health of our communities. Forests play a crucial role in maintaining water quality, preventing erosion, and supporting biodiversity. They are also a source of recreation and solace for countless Oregonians. By prioritizing logging over these other values, HB 3103 jeopardizes the very essence of what makes our state forests special.

Moreover, the long-term economic benefits of preserving our forests far outweigh the short-term gains from increased logging. Sustainable tourism, outdoor recreation, and ecosystem services provide ongoing economic opportunities that are compatible with conservation. We must not sacrifice these enduring benefits for the fleeting profits of timber extraction.

I urge you to reject HB 3103 and instead support policies that truly reflect the values of Oregonians. Our state forests should be managed for the benefit of all, ensuring that they remain healthy and vibrant for generations to come. Let us stand together to protect our environment and uphold the legacy of stewardship that defines Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Pradeep Sivakumar