

Submitter: Tara Horn

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. Our forests in Oregon are a national treasure. What would we be without the forest to give us air and refuge?

This timber industry bill undermines the Western Oregon state forest habitat conservation plan and would result in more clearcuts, more lawsuits, less habitat for salmon and wildlife, and less carbon storage. It would also imperil key drinking water sources. You don't have to believe in climate change to know our forests have an important job as a living resource, providing us with clean air, and clean water, and recreational spaces. Clearcutting will surely bring greater cost to all of us with less tourism and more dangerous wildfires. More lumber is surely not needed to provide more housing - what we need is innovation in construction that will build the industry for the future, not relying on antiquated methods that destroy ecosystems.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would increase carbon storage in our state forests and safeguard our public resources for current and future generations. Shouldn't states have the right to manage their forests and natural resources with imposition from the federal government?

Please do not let this bill pass out of committee.

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Sincerely,

A person who loves this country and its natural beauty