

Submitter: Brennan Garrelts

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Dear Honorable Representatives Helm, Owens, McDonald, and members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3103, a crucial piece of legislation that aims to establish sustainable harvest levels for timber on state forestland and develop a comprehensive timber inventory model. This bill is essential for ensuring the long-term health and productivity of Oregon's forests, which are vital to our environment, economy, and communities.

Additionally, sustainable forest management plays a significant role in climate regulation. Forests act as carbon sinks, absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it in the wood products we use to shelter society. By implementing sustainable harvest levels, we can ensure that forests continue to sequester carbon effectively AND provide long-term (100years) of carbon storage in wood products in our homes, commercial building and anything else that uses wood products.

Sustainable forest management also provides numerous social and economic benefits. It supports local communities by creating jobs in forestry and related industries, while also ensuring that forests remain a source of recreation, spiritual connection, and cultural heritage. By maintaining healthy forests, we can continue to enjoy these benefits and pass them on to future generations.

Furthermore, HB 3103 provides a framework for accountability and transparency. By requiring the State Forester to annually report on timber sales relative to the sustainable harvest level and address any deficits, the bill ensures that forest management practices are continually monitored and improved. This approach will help build public trust and support among Oregon's forest stake holders.

In conclusion, HB 3103 is a vital step towards securing the future of Oregon's forests. By promoting sustainable harvest and forest management practices, this bill will protect our environment, support our economy, and enhance the well-being of our communities. I urge you to support HB 3103 and help ensure a sustainable future for Oregon's forests.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Brennan Garrelts