

Submitter: John Duggan
On Behalf Of: Forests
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

It's been half a century since I came home from Vietnam and studied forestry. As late as the 1970s forestry education was focused on resource extraction. Since then we have learned the limits of that approach. We now understand that forests are far more than the trees, that they include numerous land, water and air benefits. This bill would take us back to the 1950s when the only consideration was harvest.

I also oppose this bill because it encourages clear cuts, which have been proven to be extremely detrimental to the landscape. They destroy biodiversity because most clear cuts are re-planted as monocultures. Already this is seriously impacting southwest Oregon, one of the most biologically diverse forest landscapes in the world. Around my home cedars shake hands with fir, pines scratch oaks, yew wood peeks out from dark corners, and a host of other species co-exist. Clear cuts also impact soils and streams, causing mycelogical death for years and erosion for years. I have witnessed this even after re-planting.

We must address forests and forestry issues from this 21st century perspective and not return to the glory days that virtually eliminated true sustainability in our State. Known as the "Timber State," this bill would eliminate that designation. Vote NO.