

Submitter: Kylie Tully

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

I urge you to reject House Bill 3103, which would 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.

The State Forest HCP was developed with years of public input, and the courts have upheld Oregon's right to manage these forests for multiple benefits (County of Linn v. State of Oregon).

Oregon's state forests are meant to serve all of us. Now is the time to make it clear that these lands must be managed for clean water, wildlife, recreation, and future generations—not just logging.

I grew up loving the forests -- so much so that I now study them in college. While there exist many economical reasons to protect forested land (as habitat, as an integral factor in water filtration, and so forth), we also have a moral duty to preserve the world around us. In one of the firsts cases involving the Endangered Species Act, the Supreme Court's ruling determined that "the value of ... genetic heritage is, quite literally, incalculable." They were referring to the Snail Darter, a tiny fish whose habitat would have been significantly disrupted by the implementation of a dam. The legislation now proposed threatens entire forests. If one small fish was incalculably valuable, then what must that say about whole ecosystems?

Please reject HB 3103.