

Submitter: Jennifer Phillippi

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

Co-chairs Helm and Owens and members of the committee,

I spent 8 years on the Oregon Board of Forestry and all these years later we continue to be stalled on finding a balance in the ecologic, social and economic values the state forests are required to provide.

I encourage you to support HB 3103.

Opponents of the bill have promoted testimony alleging that this bill:

- will "force the Department of Forestry to log our public forests at reckless and unsustainable levels"
- "prioritizes clearcut timber harvest at the expense of all other values"
- that it's simply "greedy timber barons" "demanding" and "forcing clearcuts"
- that it "threatens to halt the implementation of the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan"

The bill doesn't do any of that. It doesn't increase harvest levels or mandate that the Department adopt a particular approach to management of state forests. It doesn't threaten the HCP - which sets aside over half of our state forests for wildlife and requires large buffers on streams.

HB 3103 only asks the state to publish its harvest plan and then follow through on it. The resultant transparency about what the government is doing will provide rural Oregonians predictability and certainty for their future.

Our family operated a lumber mill in SW Oregon for 97 years before having to close due to an unpredictable and then no timber supply. We lived in and cared for our community for four generations, and today, now that our company's jobs are all gone, I volunteer weekly to help provide food and resources to once self-sufficient, now unhoused people, who were left in a lurch.
Please pass this important bill.

Thank you for considering the community and forest health that need your support.