

Submitter: Michael Heumann
On Behalf Of: Havurah Climate Action Team
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to HB 3103. Oregon's forest form a unique ecosystem that is worth more standing than logged. Of utmost importance is the role our forests (and those from Northern California to Southwest Alaska) play in sequestering carbon at rates higher than almost anywhere else on Earth! Additionally these forests support robust ecosystems and habitat for a wide range of mammals, fish and bird species, as well as protecting water quality and quantity that we all rely upon. Oregon's remaining mature and old growth forests are better able to withstand wildfires than are logged areas and tracts of open young tree plantations. Our mature and old growth forests are only a fraction of the area they once covered and we must protect the remaining area for more important uses, including the services mentioned as well as for the recreational and mental health benefits for the people who live in our state and those who come here to partake in beauty and viability of our forests -- which provide economic benefits that would be irreplaceable if the lands are logged.

I urge the Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water to reject HB 3103, for the health of the forests, the ecosystems and the planet.

Thank you.