

Submitter: Kyleigh Gill

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,

As a born and raised Oregonian, I encourage you to support HB 3103 and reject anti-forestry lobbyists' sensationalist and incorrect rhetoric.

This is a common-sense good governance bill. It directs the state to establish and publish sustainable harvest levels on state forests based on sound data, it develops a modern timber inventory model to track forest conditions and guide responsible management and ensures follow-through on sustainable harvest level commitments for the benefit and support of timber-dependent communities.

Businesses rely on state timber harvests, and we need certainty, stability and predictability to operate. Mills rely on a predictable supply of fiber to keep operations happening and Oregonians employed at a time when the state is facing job cuts.

This bill does not change harvest levels on state forests and nothing in HB 3103 impacts the state's Habitat Conservation Plan. Nothing in HB 3103 asks the state to alter the way it protects ecosystem services – harvests will absolutely continue to protect wildlife and water by following the strict rules implemented by the Board of Forestry's Forest Management Plan, as well as the Private Forest Accord – which was supported by environmental groups like Oregon Wild and Wild Salmon Center.

This bill is very simple and should not be controversial. Bottom line: it asks the state to tell us what it plans to harvest and follows through on that commitment.

Sincerely,
Kyleigh Gill