

## Letter of Opposition to Oregon HB 3103

Dear House Legislators,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Oregon HB 3103, which directs the State Forester to establish sustainable harvest levels for timber on state forestland. While the intention behind this bill may be to promote sustainable forestry practices, I believe it could lead to unintended consequences that would be detrimental to our state's forests and environment.

One of my primary concerns is that the bill may prioritize short-term economic gain over the long-term health and biodiversity of our forests. Establishing harvest levels without a comprehensive understanding of the ecological impacts could result in over-harvesting, habitat destruction, and a loss of biodiversity. Our state forests are home to numerous species of plants and animals, many of which rely on old-growth habitats that take centuries to develop. The potential disruption to these ecosystems could have far-reaching and irreversible effects.

Furthermore, the bill does not sufficiently address the importance of carbon sequestration provided by our forests. In the face of climate change, preserving our forests' ability to capture and store carbon is more critical than ever. Increased timber harvesting could undermine our efforts to combat climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

I urge you to consider the long-term implications of HB 3103 and to prioritize the preservation of our state's natural heritage. We must adopt more comprehensive and ecologically sound forestry practices that ensure the health and sustainability of our forests for future generations.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jill Marks

Newport, OR