

Submitter: Bob Atiyeh

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

I strongly oppose HB 3103. For too many years the corporate timber industry have treated their own lands like industrial tree plantations, repeatedly harvesting on short 40-year rotations. The effects of climate chaos are beginning to be felt in the form of the fungal Swiss Needle Cast disease stunting the growth of their Douglas Fir trees, while their fresh plantings of Western Hemlock succumb to hotter and drier summers. The financial value of corporate timber land in Oregon is declining due to decreasing tree growth and increasing risk of wildfire. The corporate timber industry is now taking aim at our public forest lands (State Forests) These industries have shown a complete disregard for safe, clean drinking water, endangered species such as Coho salmon, biodiversity and carbon sequestration. The wood products industry is responsible for over 30% of total carbon emissions in Oregon; more than the emissions from transportation and agriculture combined. State and Federal forests are the last bastion of biodiversity and climate resiliency amidst a rapidly warming climate. The Habitat Conservation Plan was a compromise that attempts to salvage some of the older, mature forests still standing on state lands, while providing a predictable harvest level for decades into the future. Please oppose this egregious bill that attempts to unravel years of scientific study and political compromise. Thank you.