

Submitter: Sarah Fields

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, and Members of the Committee,

I oppose House Bill 3103 and its amendments. This timber industry bill undermines the Western Oregon state forest habitat conservation plan and would result in more clearcuts, more lawsuits, less habitat for salmon and wildlife, and less carbon storage. It would also imperil key drinking water sources.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would increase carbon storage in our state forests and safeguard our public resources for current and future generations.

Please do not let this bill pass out of committee. We can't continue to prioritize making money on our trees instead of preserving forest lands. Habitat destruction is contributing to record reduction in the number of pollinators. Clear cuts contribute to wildfires and landslides. Oregon states that they support action to mitigate so-called climate change, but continues to target new areas for clearcuts, claiming these actions are "sustainable," because more trees are planted than are cut. It is hard to understand how this is sustainable when it takes decades, generations for these areas to ever be the same again, if it is even possible for them to be the same again.

Sincerely,
Sarah Fields