

Submitter: Rebecca Steffoff

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members:

I'm writing to you as an Oregonian who loves our state forests--and who opposes House Bill 3103 and its amendments.

Our state forests and many values to our lives. Among these are carbon storage, clean water, habitat for wildlife, and recreation opportunities. I've hiked, camped, kayaked, birded, and enjoyed natural surroundings in the Clatsop, Tillamook, and Santiam State Forests. I hope that I and other Oregonians will be able to do so for years to come.

But HB 3103 would subordinate all other values to timber harvest--at a time when we should be more thoughtful than ever about the future of our forests. It would also undermine both the carefully crafted State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and the state's Climate Change and Carbon Plan.

If we continue to follow the Climate Change and Carbon Plan, we can put Oregon in the forefront of forestry practices that look to the future. Our obligation as Oregonians of the present moment is to ensure that tomorrow's Oregonians will thank us for balanced stewardship of the state forests.

I urge you not to let HB 3103 pass out of committee.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Rebecca Steffoff