

Submitter: Steven Boland

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 state forest habitat conservation plan and would result in more clearcuts, more lawsuits, less habitat for salmon and wildlife, and less carbon storage.

I urge you to oppose this bill. As a biologist, the ramifications of passing HB3103 have the potential to be devastating. The great State of Oregon is home to one of the most important biomes on the planet - old growth temperate forests. These forests are incredibly old and have not changed in thousands of years. Since they are very stable environments, they are home to many species of plants, animals, fungi, and more. Disturbing these sacred lands through clearcut lumber production will severely impact the biodiversity of our forests, and surely lead to extinction events and ecological turmoil down the road. The current-day destruction of the Amazon rainforest for palm oil production is a good example of what might become of our state forests if this bill passes.

Furthermore, old growth temperate forests are vital to the health and safety of Oregonians. Baby trees planted after clearcut timber harvest is more likely to catch fire and cause damage to our lives, homes, and infrastructure. As a resident of Talent, OR, I have seen how a terrible fire affects a community. We still feel these effects TODAY. I do not want to have another community go up in flames because the state has to meet a certain quota or else be sued.

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

Long-term benefits **must** be favored over short-term gains. Over 48% of Oregon is forest, and it is your prerogative and responsibility to safeguard these lands. Please do not let this bill pass out of committee.

Sincerely,
Steven Boland