

Date: March 2, 2025
To: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
From: William Vollmer, citizen
Re: Testimony Against HB3103

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB3103 and its amendments. My reasons for opposing it include the following:

1. **HB 3103 prioritizes timber harvest over other values on state forests.** Basically the bill has such a narrow definition of sustainability that it implies the only value to our state forests lies in the timber that can be harvested from them. It would thus subordinate all other plans, policies or directives made by the Board of Forestry. These include policies protecting fish and wildlife habitat, clean water and recreation.
2. **HB 3103 undermines the new State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).** The HCP provides balanced protection for 17 species of salmon and wildlife that are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. ODF is currently following the guidelines of the HCP, while awaiting final approval by federal agencies. HB 3103 would prohibit ODF from using the HCP until it is approved by federal agencies, which would allow clearcuts in habitat protected by the HCP. Given the Trump Administration's cuts to federal agencies and its recently announced goal to maximize timber production in this country, final approval could be delayed for years.
3. **HB 3103 prevents ODF from implementing its Climate Change and Carbon Plan.** In 2021, the Board of Forestry adopted a Climate Change and Carbon Plan (Climate Plan) for state forests with the goal of establishing Oregon as a national leader in climate-smart forestry. HB 3103 requires a rule establishing 10-year harvest levels that would preempt the Climate Plan. Climate change is real and is being driven in large part by human activities. We owe it to ourselves, our children, and future generations of Oregonians to do what we can to mitigate the effects of climate change.
4. **HB 3103 would result in more litigation.** HB 3103 would establish a new right to sue the Oregon Department of Forestry over state forest timber harvest plans to obtain court orders that compel more clearcuts on public land.

In summary, this timber industry bill would undermine 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 and instead focus on measures that would increase carbon storage in our state forests and safeguard our public resources for our children and future generations.

Please don't let this bill pass out of committee.

Respectfully submitted,

William Vollmer (NE Portland)