

Submitter: Elizabeth Saufley

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. As an avid hiker and recreational enthusiast, I am already saddened by the ugliness of clear cuts which bring the destruction of habitat for wildlife, and increases negative effects of climate change. The Habitat Conservation Plan cannot be undermined- if it is, this will increase the amount of lawsuits and further erode the stability of our forests as mentioned above.

As you are aware, the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) provides protection of 17 species of salmon and wildlife that are listed in the federal Endangered Species Act. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) currently follows the HCP while waiting for approval from federal agencies. HB 3103 eliminates this waiting period, which will allow clear cuts in habitat that is protected by the Habitat Conservation Plan. Given Trump's cuts to Federal agencies, final approval could be delayed for years. This will provide a greater window for timber industries to take advantage and clear cut protected land.

HB 3103 prevents the ODF from implementing its Climate Change and Carbon Plan. We want to be a national leader in climate-smart forestry. This bill would require a rule establishing 10 year harvest levels that would preempt the Climate Change and Carbon Plan.

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 clear cuts on public land.

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 our children and future generations.

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

Sincerely,

Liz Saufley