



Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.

PO Box 12339 | Salem, Oregon 97309 | (503) 364-1330 | aol@oregonloggers.org

February 28, 2025

The Honorable Ken Helm & Mark Owens, Co-Chairs
House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: HB 3103 - **SUPPORT**

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

Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL) represents nearly 1,000 small, family-owned businesses that provide the workforce essential to managing Oregon's forests. Our members are the loggers, road builders, truck drivers, and reforestation crews who ensure that Oregon's public and private forests remain productive, healthy, and accessible. These small businesses rely on predictable and sustainable timber harvests from state forests to keep their crews working and our rural economies strong.

HB 3103 is a good governance bill that strengthens transparency, accountability, and long-term certainty in state forest management. It simply ensures that the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) sets clear, sustainable harvest levels and follows through on them—nothing more, nothing less.

This is a critical step in rebuilding trust between ODF and the communities, businesses, and counties that depend on responsible forest management.

The Problem: A Lack of Transparency and Accountability

For years, ODF has relied on inaccurate harvest projections that have resulted in significant economic and operational instability. Just as we saw with the flawed data used in the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) process, shifting and unpredictable harvest levels create financial hardship for timber-dependent counties, uncertainty for small businesses, and operational challenges for ODF itself.

The agency's increasing reliance on General Fund dollars to cover budget shortfalls highlights the need for improved transparency and fiscal responsibility. Without clear and accountable harvest planning, Oregon risks moving away from a self-sustaining forest management model, placing an unnecessary burden on taxpayers while undermining local economies.

The Solution: HB 3103 Brings Transparency, Accountability, and Certainty

This bill directs the state forester to:

- Establish and publish sustainable harvest levels that balance economic, environmental, and community needs.
- Base those levels on sound data to improve planning and management.
- Develop a modern timber inventory model to track forest conditions and guide responsible decision-making and management.
- Ensure timber sales align with sustainable harvest calculations to support rural.
- Provide greater transparency and accountability in managing state forests, ensuring follow-through on what the Department says it's going to do

This does not increase harvest levels or roll back environmental protections. Instead, it ensures that ODF commits to a clear, science-based plan—and then follows through. The state's own timber-dependent counties, small businesses, and contractors should not be left guessing what harvest levels will look like from year to year.

What It Isn't: Addressing Opposition Claims

Opponents claim HB 3103 will increase logging at reckless and unsustainable levels, prioritize clearcutting above all else, undermine the State Forests HCP, and threaten wildlife habitat and drinking water. These claims are misleading and simply false.

- HB 3103 does not dictate harvest levels—it ensures ODF sets them based on data and follows through. Whether those levels are guided by the HCP or another framework, transparency and predictability benefit everyone.
- The current system of inconsistent and unpredictable harvest levels leads to more lawsuits, not fewer. HB 3103 reduces uncertainty and, in turn, legal challenges.
- Active forest management is essential for protecting water quality, storing carbon, and maintaining wildlife habitat. Sustainable harvest levels increase forest resilience against wildfires, disease, and drought—ensuring long-term environmental and economic benefits.

Why This Matters for Oregon's Forest Workforce

AOL's members collectively employ nearly 23,000 Oregonians, providing the workforce necessary to manage our forests. These businesses need long-term certainty—not just in an Annual Operations Plan, but in a transparent and accountable framework that ensures stability for the many years and decades ahead.

Without predictable harvest levels, these businesses have a hard time planning work, investing in equipment, or retaining skilled workers.

At its core, HB 3103 is about ensuring ODF does what it says it will do—providing the certainty that Oregon's loggers and forest operators need to continue their essential work. AOL urges your support for HB 3103 and the -1 amendment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Amanda Sullivan-Astor, CF

Forest Policy Manager; Associated Oregon Loggers

Office: 503-364-1330

aastor@oregonloggers.org

A Trusted Partner for Oregon's Forest Operators