

Submitter: Pamela Reber

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. The timber industry wants to gear up to cut under this federal administration, just when weather variability is driving drought and blow downs. If we called managed stands what they are - tree farms, then we would stop pretending that there are no different values between tree farms and forests. We are losing more biodiversity, water quality, habitat, and carbon sequestration that can currently be measured because of the rate of change on the landscape. Meanwhile, the only thing local timber communities get are a couple of more years of cutting jobs - no say over the management of the lands that they rely upon, no ability to harvest other products on private timberlands that span thousands of acres, and no escape from downstream impacts.

This timber industry bill undermines the Western Oregon state forest habitat conservation plan and would result in more clearcuts, more lawsuits, less habitat for salmon and wildlife, and less carbon storage. It would also imperil key drinking water sources.

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 current and future generations.

Please do not let this bill pass out of committee.

Sincerely,
Pam Reber