

Submitter: Steven Kacsmar

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

We are at a crucial time for forests in this country, with greed and corruption running rampant in our federal government and the desire to erase all acknowledgment of climate change and the real heroes in our fight against it, our forests. Oregon's mature forests have some of the highest carbon storage in the world, and sacrificing to the false claim of avoiding fire danger is ludicrous. In fact, mature forests are our first defense against forest fire, not the plantation forests that the timber industry wants to replace them with.

This bill also does not take into account the interests of Native Americans, who did a better job of forest stewardship than our timber industries do.

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.

Not only is the forest an important buffer against climate change, it is also a national treasure for all who value nature and all the wildlife who call this natural wonder home. As well as providing habitat for wildlife, these mature and old growth forests provide a haven for people to relax and enjoy the beauty of one of our few remaining natural wonders. And if these forest areas are clear cut, they won't be the same for our children and their children. Let's not leave them McForests.

Please do not let this bill pass out of committee.

Sincerely,

Steven Kacsmar  
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