

Submitter: David Reid

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

I'm David Reid, executive director of the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce representing over 600 members and local businesses. I am testifying in support of HB 3103, a good governance bill that will give the communities and businesses that rely on state forests the means to plan for the future.

The forest sector is a huge part of Clatsop County's economic base and part of the fabric of our region. We want to see it thrive now and into the future.

This sector provides fully benefited jobs that pay on average 171% higher than the average county wage. These businesses spur indirect jobs and generate economic activity throughout our region. A reduction in timber harvest and subsequent jobs sends a ripple effect that is felt by all of us.

The revenue generated from state forests timber sales funds over 30 county services and taxing districts. This direct revenue is vital for schools, fire districts, law enforcement, healthcare, transportation, and many other operations that serve communities across the county.

Unfortunately, we are looking at a significant reduction in state forests timber harvests as a result of ODF's habitat conservation plan.

I, along with other local leaders, school officials, taxing districts, and businesses advocated for years for the Board of Forestry to improve the HCP to balance the economic and environmental goals. Sadly, our concerns fell on deaf ears.

So, now we need to move forward with what we're left with and plan for the future. Unfortunately, without HB 3103, we will not have the certainty and accountability our interests desperately need to do that planning. Without accountability, we will have destroyed livelihoods, bankrupted school districts and families, and forever altered our state's economy based entirely on good intentions and the faint hope that future boards of forestry will remember and uphold the promises made to the citizens of Oregon.

This bill doesn't change the drastic outcomes of the HCP – it seems we're stuck with those. Nor does it pit the benefits we receive from the forest against each other. It simply asks the state to tell us what it plans to harvest and follows through on that commitment. Businesses make investments based on information, this bill will provide more confidence and transparency for investments. Environmental

responsibility is an Oregon core value. Accountability should be too. I ask that you support HB 3103.