

Submitter: Anna Kaufman

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

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

My name is Anna Kaufman, I am an Astoria resident, and the chapter coordinator for North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection, a citizen group that advocates for the protection of forested drinking watersheds. I oppose House Bill 3103 and its amendments.

In a letter to a friend, 75 years ago, scientist and environmental writer Rachel Carson wrote “We live in an age of rising seas. Now in our own lifetime we are witnessing a startling alteration of climate”.

Today, we are seeing the changes Carson alluded to more vividly than ever before. These climatic changes directly threaten our health and vitality, and even more so, that of our children. I’ve heard several others who have testified asking for certainty and reliability in projections. The fact is, as of 2024, the State of the Climate Report warns that 25 of our 35 planetary vital signs are now at record levels. Unfortunately, we no longer have certainty because of the climate crisis.

Bill 3101 would elevate harvest over all other values outlined by the Greatest Permanent Value statute. It would incentivize clearcutting of our public forestland by threatening legal ramifications for the State Forester should he or she not meet harvest levels. Prioritizing deforestation in this era of rapidly changing climate will only hasten the worst impacts of the crisis. We must diversify the stream of revenue for our counties.

Deforestation increases the threat of wildfire, especially in young replanted stands. It also will increase instance of summer drought and wintertime flash floods, both of which prevent the recharge of critical groundwater reserves and essential streams used for community drinking water. Over half a million people in North West Oregon rely on drinking water from streams and rivers coming from State Forestland. Increased clearcutting would be detrimental to our access to clean, cold, and abundant drinking water.

I urge you to Please oppose bill 3101, so that our current and future generations, human and non-human alike, may have the opportunity to enjoy and steward our beautiful public forestland. Thank you.

