

Submitter: Jared Kennedy

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

I urge you to reject House Bill 3103. The bill may force the Department of Forestry to continue unsustainable and destructive logging in Oregon State Forests. These large clearcuts negatively impact the wildlife, water and carbon reserves that these forests provide.

These forests once were some of the largest intact forests in the United States. Some historical records credit the largest of the Douglas firs were over 400 feet, potentially the tallest trees in the world. You wouldn't know it looking at today's patchwork of regular clearcuts and tree plantations. It's time we pivot Oregon away from the extractive industries of the past, and this means decoupling public funding from timber revenues, and ensuring our coastal counties can thrive.

In Oregon's rural counties, we continue to operate on the assumption that the economies that worked in 50 years ago can still work today. This is a lie. It ensures that rural communities continue to be left in the past, and it promotes a fantasy that clearcuts and extraction are a net benefit and highest value use of Oregon's forested landscapes. In fact, it's a continual lose-lose proposition.

The idea of sustained yield forestry is heavily influenced by outdated forestry models that predated an ecological understanding of forested ecosystems. It was imported from Europe in a context that never appropriately applied to the forested landscapes of the Western United States. It ignores the indigenous peoples and the way they lived prior to Western contact. It is now corruptly applied to provide a private benefit to timber companies at a public expenses. It's high time we move past the timber policies of the past that have resulted in widespread ecological impacts across Oregon, and begin to build a vision for our forests, and the communities that are surrounded by state forests, that incorporates the best available climate and ecological science and addresses the role our forests play in mitigating the ongoing climate and biodiversity crises.

Please oppose HB 3103. Thank you!