

Submitter: Denise Monaghan

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

Hello co-chairs Owens and Helm and members of the committee,

My name is Denise Monaghan, I am a citizen of Clatsop county, Oregon. I moved here six years ago because of the abundant wildlife and forests, water and fungi. I have been have alarmed by what the timber industry is doing to our remaining forests. To me, trees are more than board feet. They create an ecosystem that moderates extremes of heat and cold, store a great deal of water and generate humidity. They can live to be hundreds of years old if allowed to. They live in a bio rich community, communicating and feeding each other through their roots and mycorrhizal networks. In Oregon, sadly, not many old trees are left. Now the timber industry is taking the second growth, furthering more setbacks to wild nature's recovery.

I want to speak for the trees, who are social beings that share food and resources with each other. Pesticide sprayed monocrops do not behave as wild forests. They have no ability to survive fires or infestations, and are essentially enslaved in our agricultural system. They are not carbon sinks and do not mitigate climate. In addition to keeping our water and soil healthy, the forest acts as a giant carbon dioxide vacuum, providing us with oxygen. They are our best chance against desertification, and extremes in weather and rainfall.

I understand we need wood and wood products, but we need to change how we harvest and see the forest. We must learn to see forests as more than money in our coffers.

This bill is unnecessary, seems driven by profit and greed and does not consider future generations. It's time to listen to the forests, for once.

Please oppose House Bill 3103.

Thank you for your time.

Denise Monaghan