

Submitter: David Whitaker

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, which would force the Department of Forestry to log our public forests at unsustainable levels that will lead to severe degradation of forest habitat and water quality. I spend quite a lot of time in the Clatsop and Tillamook forests foraging for mushrooms and witness the impacts that harvesting of trees can have on the forest. I understand that a sustainable level of logging is necessary and I use wood when building structures on my property. However, the proposals in HB 3103 will lead to an unsustainable level of harvest in state forests and this is not right. Especially when I see the thousands of logs at the Teevin Terminal in Longview that are being shipped overseas without milling it into lumber in Oregon or Washington. I know these are logs from private timberlands, but shipping those logs overseas puts more pressure on the state forests to get the cut out to provide wood for local mills. Oregonians expect their leaders to stand up for our environment, not cave to the demands of timber executives seeking bigger profits. The State Forest HCP was developed with years of public input, and the courts have upheld Oregon's right to manage these forests for multiple benefits (County of Linn v. State of Oregon). Oregon's state forests are meant to serve all of us. Now is the time to make it clear that these lands must be managed for clean water, wildlife, recreation, and future generations—not just logging. Please reject HB 3103.

Thanks for your consideration,

David Whitaker