

Submitter: Susan Mates

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

I urge you to oppose HB 3103, requiring the state forester to set timber harvest targets by rule. Stakeholders have worked hard to hammer out balanced plans, policies and directives. Those policies provide protect fish and wildlife habitat, ensure cleaner water, and supports recreation.

This bill would prohibit ODF from using the new State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) until it is approved by federal agencies. That would allow clearcuts in habitat that the HCP would protect. Final approval could be delayed for years, creating a degradation of our forests.

HB 3103 would also establish 10-year harvest levels that would upend ODF's implementation of its Climate Change and Carbon Plan, adopted in 2021 to ensure climate-smart forestry.

Oppose this short-sighted bill. Instead, I depend on you to focus on measures that safeguard our public resources for the health of our forests, for wildlife and for future generations.

Please don't let this bill pass out of committee.