



March 3, 2025  
 Representative Ken Helm, Chair  
 Representative Mark Owens, Chair  
 House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
 Oregon State Legislature  
 900 Court St. NE  
 Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Salem Chamber Written Testimony in Support of HB 3103**

Dear Chair Helm, Chair Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water,

Our organization represents over one thousand (1,000+) local businesses and forty-five thousand (45,000) employees in the Salem area. The breadth and diversity of industries represented by our membership demonstrate an intersection of the small businesses that collectively create our state economy. The Salem Chamber supports a healthy business climate and healthy forests, both of which contribute to the success of our state government and economy.

The timber industry has been crucial to our state's economy, and it supports many ancillary businesses. HB 3103 would require the State of Oregon to determine and publicly designate the sustainable harvest levels on state forestland. These sustainable harvest levels will use thorough evidence-based metrics done with transparency and for the mission of long-term healthy forests and economy.

Effective forest management includes a modern timber inventory model tracking forest conditions with sustainable harvest goals which safeguard wildlife protection and reduce the escalating wildfire risks. Stable employment opportunities will come with stable and consistent harvest levels. Combined this will ensure the safety and vitality of our public lands for cultural legacy, recreation, and our historic timber industry. Research-driven forest management will effectively reduce wildfire threats and protect our citizens, wildlife, and environment.

Healthy forests mean healthy communities. We can grow both jobs and trees with sustainable harvest levels by passing HB 3103.

Respectfully,

Tom Hoffert, CEO Salem Area Chamber of Commerce

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*Salem Area Chamber of Commerce*