

Submitter: Rebecca Wallis

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rebecca, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB 3103, which aims to ensure responsible timber harvesting in Oregon. As an Oregonian, I believe this bill is crucial to maintaining the sustainability of our state's timber industry, protecting family-wage jobs, and promoting responsible forest management.

Oregon has a long and proud history of forestry, and timber remains one of the state's most vital industries. Managed forests provide economic stability to rural communities, supporting thousands of jobs in logging, milling, transportation, and related industries. Without sustainable harvesting, these communities face economic hardship, job loss, and a diminishing tax base that funds schools, emergency services, and infrastructure.

Beyond the economic benefits, responsible timber harvesting is an essential tool for forest health and wildfire prevention. When forests are left unmanaged, they accumulate excessive fuels, increasing the risk of devastating wildfires that destroy homes, wildlife habitats, and air quality. Thinning overgrown forests through strategic timber harvests reduces this risk, ensuring healthier ecosystems and a safer environment for all Oregonians.

Opponents of HB 3103 argue against timber harvesting without recognizing that trees are a renewable resource. Sustainable forestry practices ensure that for every tree harvested, new trees are planted, maintaining forest coverage and long-term ecological balance. Oregon's forestry regulations are among the most stringent in the country, ensuring that harvesting is done responsibly with minimal environmental impact.

It is critical that we do not allow ideology to override science-based forest management. HB 3103 provides a balanced approach that supports jobs, protects our forests from catastrophic wildfires, and ensures Oregon's timber industry remains strong for future generations. I urge you to pass this bill and stand with working Oregonians who depend on the responsible use of our natural resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Wallis