

Submitter: Courtney Griesel

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

Dear Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Sierra Pacific Industries, a family-owned, third-generation wood products and sustainable forestry company, I am writing in strong support of HB 3103, which provides a much-needed good-governance framework for accountability and transparency in the management of Oregon's state forestlands. This bill ensures that the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) not only establishes sustainable harvest levels but also follows through on them—bringing consistency and reliability to communities across Oregon.

Oregon's forestry sector relies on stability and predictability. Without clear requirements that ODF meet its sustainable harvest goals, Oregon's communities face uncertainty that threatens jobs, industry investment, local tax revenues, and environmental health. HB 3103 establishes a modernized timber inventory system and mandates annual reporting to ensure that harvest levels reflect science-based, data-driven decision-making.

It also builds in reasonable allowances for periodic adjustments to harvest levels in response to evolving environmental and economic factors. It does not force unsustainable harvesting but instead ensures that harvest plans are grounded in real-world forest conditions and legal requirements. By requiring ODF to track and publicly report on harvest levels, HB 3103 strengthens adaptive management rather than restricting it.

While regulations like the Oregon Forest Practices Act and habitat conservation plans are essential, they do not require ODF to meet its own established harvest levels. HB 3103 fills this gap in accountability by ensuring that timber management commitments are not just set, but actually achieved, fostering public trust and preventing shortfalls that harm rural economies and landscapes.

Finally, concerns that this bill undermines environmental protections are misplaced. HB 3103 requires that all sustainable harvest determinations comply with existing state and federal laws, including habitat conservation plans and environmental safeguards. This bill does not override these protections—it aligns with them and the sustainable harvest planning of Oregon's broader conservation and management objectives.

By promoting good governance, responsible stewardship, and economic sustainability, HB 3103 is a practical and necessary step forward. We urge the Committee to support HB 3103 and ensure Oregon's state forests are managed effectively for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Courtney Griesel