



Eastern Oregon Counties Association

1106 K Avenue, La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 786-8799

March 4, 2025

Subject: Support for HB 3103 – Sustainable Timber Harvest and Economic Growth

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Marion County Board of Commissioners strongly supports HB 3103, which directs the State Forester to establish sustainable harvest levels for state forestlands. Oregon is currently facing a severe housing crisis, and the responsible management of our forests can play a vital role in addressing this challenge. Increased access to sustainably harvested timber will help provide the raw materials needed to build affordable housing, reducing costs while supporting local communities.

Oregon already has some of the most stringent timber harvest regulations in the world, ensuring that forest management is conducted with environmental stewardship in mind. However, when we do not harvest timber locally, we become reliant on imports from countries such as Canada, Brazil, and China—places that may not have the same environmental protections in place. By harvesting timber responsibly here in Oregon, we can reduce our carbon footprint and ensure that our environmental values are upheld.

Sustainable timber harvest is not only an environmental imperative but also a crucial driver of rural economies. Timber jobs provide high wages and family-supporting employment in communities that depend on forestry. Companies like Freres Wood, based here in Oregon, are leading the way in innovative timber products like Mass Ply Panels, which are now being used to construct multi-story buildings across the nation and the world. Supporting a predictable and sustainable harvest ensures that companies like Freres can continue to invest in cutting-edge wood products, further strengthening Oregon's economy.

HB 3103 provides the necessary framework to balance ecological sustainability with economic viability, ensuring that our forests remain healthy, our communities thrive, and our housing needs are met. We urge you to support this legislation and advance Oregon's legacy as a leader in responsible forestry.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul Anderes, Chair Eastern Oregon Counties Assn.

**MEMBER COUNTIES: BAKER – CROOK – DECHUTES – GILLIAM – GRANT – HARNEY – JEFFERSON –
KLAMATH – LAKE – MALHEUR – MORROW – SHERMAN – UMATILLA – UNION – WALLOWA – WHEELER**
