

Submitter: Avi Goldshmidt

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Avi Goldshmidt, and I live in Astoria, OR near the Clatsop State Forest. I oppose House Bill 3103 and its amendments. This bill written and supported by the timber industry would fundamentally change the way the state forests are managed. HB 3103 seeks to prioritize logging over all other values of the state forests, such as clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and carbon storage. It would also establish a right to sue the state forester should he/she not harvest enough trees.

As it stands, this bill threatens the integrity of our state forests that are supposed to be for the benefit of all Oregonians. It greatly undermines the state forest habitat conservation plan as well as the Department of Forestry's goal of being a "national leader in climate-smart forestry". In this era of climate change, it is crucial that we recognize the planetary significance that our mature temperate rainforests have for their ability to store carbon. Simply put, leaving trees in the ground is the cheapest and most efficient approach to mitigating climate change.

As an Oregon resident who finds great value in preserving public forestland for recreation opportunities, habitat protections for endangered species, and carbon sequestration, I am astonished at this attempt by the timber industry to take over the little public forest we have left (3% of total forestland in Oregon). This public forest is for the benefit of all Oregon residents.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would increase carbon storage in our state forests and safeguard our public resources for our children and future generations. These are not city forests nor county forests that are on the chopping block; these are state forests and should require the say of all Oregonians before legislating its liquidation. Please don't let this bill pass out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Avi Goldshmidt  
Astoria, OR