

Submitter: Michael S. Melcher
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

Co-chairs Helm and Owens and members of the committee,

I encourage you to support HB 3103 and reject anti-forestry lobbyists' sensationalist rhetoric.

Opponents of the bill have been telling their followers to submit testimony based on allegations that this bill:

will "force the Department of Forestry to log our public forests at reckless and unsustainable levels"
"prioritizes clearcut timber harvest at the expense of all other values"
that it's simply "greedy timber barons" "demanding" and "forcing clearcuts"
that it "threatens to halt the implementation of the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan"

The bill doesn't do any of that. It doesn't increase harvest levels or mandate the Department adopt a particular approach to management of state forests. And it certainly doesn't threaten the HCP - which already sets aside over half of our state forests for wildlife and requires larger buffers on streams.

All HB 3103 does is ask the state to publish its harvest plan and then follow through on it. It increases transparency about what the government is doing and provides rural Oregonians with predictability and certainty for their future. That's it.

Please pass this common-sense good governance bill.

Thank you for your consideration of my perspective on this issue.