

Submitter: Dan Stone

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

As an Oregon resident, public land user, tax payer and employee of the timber industry I am in full support of HB 3103. It is my opinion that Oregon's public timberlands have been mismanaged in recent years and have created undesirable forest stand conditions that are highly susceptible to catastrophic wildfire, insect infestation and disease. Proper forest management backed by science supports sustainable harvest levels. Having a dependable, transparent supply of timber products available for public purchase allows Oregon businesses a level of certainty to conduct their operations, create living wage jobs for Oregonians, bolster the Oregon economy, and have increased faith in the future of the timber industry. Oregon timber industry businesses are struggling, with one factor to that struggle being timber supply. It is impossible to imagine an Oregon business making a significant investment without a level of certainty of where the raw materials to run the business are going to come from. This bill is not a cure all, and will not eliminate market fluctuations, supply chain problems, increased cost of living for employees and other unexpected expenses, but it is a step in the right direction to support Oregon timber industry businesses. The timber industry is the lifeblood of Oregon, and without this bill and others like it, it should come as no surprise to see a continued decrease in timber industry manufacturing facilities, a bigger shortage of new generation employees, and more and more catastrophic wildfires costing the State countless dollars and precious lives.