

Submitter: Shauna McKain-Storey

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

I vehemently oppose HB 3103, which would require public state forests to be managed like private industrial forest lands, with large clearcuts and short rotation ages. It prioritizes timber production over habitat, recreation and carbon storage. It creates new standing for the timber industry to sue the State Forester and Board of Forestry. This bill seems to be ignoring that these are public forests, which belong to us all, not to lumber companies or other corporations. Ordinary Oregonians like us pay taxes to help maintain these forests; meanwhile I keep reading about corporations like Weyerhaeuser paying little or no taxes! Most Oregonians I know care about the recreational opportunities that these forests provide, about the habitat that wildlife need so they don't go extinct or increasingly encroach on places where people live, and/or about slowing down the climate change that is endangering our future. Scientific studies have shown that mature forests (so, longer rotation ages, not shorter ones) are better able to weather drought and survive wildfires, and that clearcutting can exacerbate fires because of all the slash piles left by industrial logging. Please consider the public on whose behalf these forests are managed, and vote no on this bill. Thank you.